

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 305153

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE AUG 19 2009

WHEREAS, Roberto Martinez, civil rights activist, was known for arduously defending immigrants against discrimination and racial intolerance; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Martinez's career as an advocate began in the 1970's when neighbors asked him for help after several Latino children were victims of racial violence at school and school officials refused to take action; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Martinez left his job as a supervisor for a plane engine manufacturing company in 1977 to work in the community on civil rights issues; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Martinez began working for the Roman Catholic Diocese here in San Diego and later worked for the Chicano Federation, and in 1983 was chosen to head a border project for the American Friends Service Committee; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Martinez served as the director for the American Friends Service Committee for 18 years and as a board member for the Border Angels; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Martinez was the first U.S. citizen honored by Human Rights Watch for his work advocating for migrant farm workers; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Martinez was presented with the Ohtli Award, one of Mexico's highest honors, by the Mexican Consul General in San Diego, Remedios Gomez Arnau; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Martinez was presented the prestigious international Quetzalcóatl Award by Mauricio Farah and Heriberto Garcia of Mexico's Human Rights Commission of the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, praising him for providing a voice to Americans of migrant descent in need of a voice in their own country (USA) and to migrants in need of a voice in foreign soil (USA); NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim July 28, 2009, to be "ROBERTO MARTINEZ DAY" in recognition of his tremendous contributions as a civil rights activist, father and friend.

APPROVED: JAN I. GOLDSMITH, City Attorney

By Sharon B. Spivak
Sharon B. Spivak
Deputy City Attorney

SBS:lkj
06/22/09
Or.Dept:Council-Hueso
R-2009-1319

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of JUL 28 2009.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND
City Clerk

By [Signature]
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 8-19-09
(date)

[Signature]
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

JERRY SANDERS, Mayor