

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-96

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 7, 2019

To recognize the 20th Charter Year Anniversary of the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School.

WHEREAS, the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School was initially the Program for English Instruction to Latin Americans, which was founded by Carlos Rosario;

WHEREAS, in 1972, Sonia Gutiérrez became the Director of the Program for English Instruction to Latin Americans and transformed the small, under-funded program into a comprehensive adult education program;

WHEREAS, in 1974, the Office of Right-to-Read at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare designated the Program for English Instruction to Latin Americans as one of the best literacy programs in the nation;

WHEREAS, in 1978, the Program for English Instruction to Latin Americans was relocated to the old Gordon Junior High School in Glover Park in Washington, DC;

WHEREAS, in 1992, the Council of the District of Columbia renamed the Program for English Instruction to Latin Americans to the Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center;

WHEREAS, the Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center grew to provide 4,500 students per year with crucial language, cultural, vocational, and job skills with a waiting list of 2,000;

WHEREAS, the Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center became an international model, drawing visitors from other states and nations to review its operations and curricula, seeking to replicate the Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center;

WHEREAS, in 1996, the District of Columbia faced a financial crisis that brought about the elimination of all District of Columbia Public Schools adult education programs, including the Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center;

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WHEREAS, from August 1996 to March 1997, Ms. Gutiérrez, Allison Kokkoros, and supporters of the Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center worked tirelessly to raise \$100,000 dollars from local foundations to reopen the school as the non-profit Carlos Rosario International Career Center;

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Carlos Rosario International Career Center's charter application was approved, and the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School opened, which became the first adult Public Charter School in the nation, which then later merged with the Carlos Rosario International Career Center;

WHEREAS, today the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School operates two campuses: the Harvard Street Campus and Central Office located in Ward 1 and the Sonia Gutiérrez Campus located in Ward 5, which both serve more than 2,500 students annually;

WHEREAS, the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School offers a variety of courses: information technology, citizenship, culinary arts, nursing aide, family literacy, and English;

WHEREAS, the Carlos Rosario Public Charter School has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of immigrants in the District of Columbia, by investing in and supporting their journey to reach their highest potential; and

WHEREAS, CEO, Allison Kokkoros and the entire staff at the Carlos Rosario Public Charter School pledge to further their outreach and support of the adult community to continue to offer the best in adult education for many years to come.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "20th Charter Year Anniversary of the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School for its trailblazing role in educating adults in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.