



Legislation Text

File #: R-420-22, **Version:** 1

Councilwoman Morris

Recognizing Rico Neller, the 1989 founder of *La Prensa Publications*, for his lifelong dedication to promoting the Latin/Hispanic community, language and culture.

WHEREAS, Rico Neller, the 1989 co-founder and later editor of *La Prensa Publications*, was born on March 11, 1946 in St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, he is one of four siblings who spent some of their childhood living in Cuba, Mexico, Chile & Peru; was very intrigued in learning about the Latin culture and later became a bilingual attorney that was licensed in Ohio and other various federal courts including Texas; and

WHEREAS, during this time in Toledo, Ohio no one knew what the word Hispanic meant, and in 1989 Mr. Neller created *La Prensa Publications* with Celso Rodriguez and others, where he has successfully kept the bilingual weekly newspaper running for over 34 years without ever missing a week of printing; and

WHEREAS, *La Prensa*, the oldest regional Latino newspaper, is an innovative weekly newspaper serving the Latino/Hispanic communities in Ohio and Michigan with more than 75,000 weekly readers (includes Lazo Cultural Supplement and the weekly Internet visiting readers), a number that grows every day; and

WHEREAS, *La Prensa* provides its readers objective coverage of hard news from their community about education, people, politics and events; offer in-depth articles on literature, art, culture, poetry, dance, travel and Latino Music; and adheres to the ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists; and

WHEREAS, *La Prensa* is nationally known for its support of Tejano music-a combination of Texan and Spanish music with strong influences from polka, country, rock and jazz and is popular throughout the region-coverage and sponsorship; and

WHEREAS, *La Prensa* is active in the community not only serving as a watchdog, but sponsoring cultural and musical events such as Latino Scholarship Day with the Muds Hens and has sponsored past events such as the Midwest Tejano Music Awards and festivals; and

WHEREAS, each year *La Prensa* partners with the Toledo Mud Hens to offer 2-4 scholarships to a deserving Hispanic student on their way to college, and serves as a clearinghouse for minority contractors. Contractors from across Ohio and Michigan read *La Prensa* weekly to enhance their business; NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Council of the City of Toledo:

SECTION 1. That Rico Neller, the 1989 founder of *La Prensa Publications*, is hereby recognized for his

lifelong dedication to promoting the Latin/Hispanic community, language and culture.

SECTION 2. That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Vote on emergency clause: yeas 11, nays 0.

Passed: September 13, 2022, as an emergency measure: yeas 11, nays 0.

Attest:

Gerald E. Dendinger
Clerk of Council

Matt Cherry
President of Council

Approved:

September 15, 2022
Wade Kapszukiewicz
Mayor