

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 23, 2023
TO: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board
FROM: Adelita Grijalva, Chair and District Five Supervisor
REGARDING: Item for the September 5 regular agenda



Please add the following to the September 5 regular agenda:

Proclamation

Designating September 9 and 10, 2023 as a time to recognize and celebrate "The Latin American Social Club and Casino Ballroom." (District 5)

Thank you

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Latin American Social Club and Casino Ballroom have played a key role in the empowerment of our community in the education, civic, social and artistic arenas by being the center for the promotion of Chicano, Latino and African-American music, with such great performers as Little Joe y la Familia, Ray Camacho, Ritmo 7, Los Lobos, Duke Ellington, Tito Puente, Albert Gallegos and Latin Breed, Perez Prado, "The King of Mambo," Chubby Checker, Black Cat Zydeco and many more; and

WHEREAS, the Latin American Social Club and Casino Ballroom were instrumental in founding a college scholarship fund that played a vital role in sending some of the first generation of Chicano students from Tucson to the University of Arizona and other colleges, as well as raising thousands of dollars for local community organizations that impacted its economic and civic engagement growth; and

WHEREAS, original board members Adolfo Loustanaou, Benjamin Jacobs and Ramon Siqueros built the ballroom in 1947 and sold it to the Latin American Social Club in 1968, with Raul "Butch" Martinez serving as the first manager from 1968 to 1975. Martinez returned in 1991 after the roof collapsed to work with his son, Fred, and community members Frank and Vince Amparano, John Hernandez, Lee Smith, Jesus Gastelum, Henry Martinez, Ed Lopez and many other unsung volunteers who reorganized and rebuilt the ballroom and reopened it in 2000. Today, under the leadership of Board President Gil Federico, it continues its mission of service for Tucsonenses of every walk of life; and

WHEREAS, the Latin American Social Club and Casino Ballroom are the heart of the community, based out of Barrio Libre in the City of South Tucson, and the ballroom has been recognized by our community as an important heritage site to be preserved and honored; and

WHEREAS, Tucsonans and local leaders recognize the Casino Ballroom as a connector to Tucson history, culture and heritage for the younger generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims Saturday and Sunday, September 9 and 10, 2023, as a time to recognize and celebrate:

"THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB AND CASINO BALLROOM"

and encourages everyone to continue to support the Casino Ballroom and its goals and objectives.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of September, 2023.

The Honorable Adelita S. Grijalva, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors