

## **A RESOLUTION HONORING IRAZÚ COSTA RICAN RESTAURANT IN CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15 to October 15, is a time to honor the histories, cultures, and contributions of Latino and Hispanic communities in the United States, and to recognize the individuals, families, and businesses that enrich the civic and cultural fabric of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Irazú, the only Costa Rican restaurant in the City of Chicago, was founded on August 20, 1990, by Miriam and Gerardo Cerdas, a proud family from Turrialba, Costa Rica, who sought to share the flavors and traditions of their homeland with their new city, and named the restaurant after the Irazú Volcano, one of Costa Rica's most iconic natural landmarks; and

**WHEREAS**, Miriam, a graduate of Harold Washington College with both a GED and a Restaurant Management degree, and Gerardo, who served as a CTA bus driver, embodied the perseverance, work ethic, and entrepreneurial spirit that define Chicago's immigrant families; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past three decades, Irazú has grown into a beloved neighborhood institution and cultural landmark, introducing generations of Chicagoans to Costa Rican cuisine and hospitality, while uplifting the broader Latino community; and

**WHEREAS**, Irazú has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to service and community by partnering with schools, nonprofits, and citywide initiatives, supporting back-to-school fundraisers, promoting business and community development, providing meals for newly arrived migrants and low-income students, participating in civic discount programs, and working as a certified Chicago Public Schools vendor, thereby weaving itself into the social and cultural fabric of the city; and

**WHEREAS**, Irazú has also garnered national and local acclaim, appearing on WTTW's Check, Please!, Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives, WGN's Chicago's Best, NBC5 and Fox32's Hispanic Heritage Month features, and even a national Google commercial highlighting restaurants' resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, in bringing the vibrant flavors of gallo pinto, casado, plantains, and other staples of Costa Rican cooking to the city, Irazú has become more than a restaurant. It has become a gathering place for families, a cultural ambassador, and a source of pride for Chicago's Costa Rican community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, Mayor Brandon Johnson and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled here this 25th day of September, 2025, do hereby honor Irazú Costa Rican Restaurant and the Cerdas family for their outstanding contributions to the cultural, culinary, and civic life of our city, and celebrate their legacy during Hispanic Heritage Month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Irazú as a token of the City of Chicago's appreciation and esteem. ¡Pura Vida!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Quezada". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Anthony J. Quezada  
Alderman, 35th Ward