

CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** on 20 October 1944, a group of university students, workers, farmers, teachers and young military personnel defeated the repressive administration of General Jorge Ubico Castaneda, the last of a series of dictators who had ruled Guatemala since 1871; and
- WHEREAS,** this group followed the heroic example of Tecun Uman, one of the last rulers of the K'iche' Maya people who in 1524 died fighting the Spaniards in the Battle of El Pinar, near Quetzaltenango, becoming a national Guatemalan hero; and
- WHEREAS,** the Guatemalan Revolution that initiated the "Ten Years of Spring" continues to influence life in Guatemala to this day; and
- WHEREAS,** the Guatemalan "Ten Years of Spring" in 1944 witnessed the first truly free democratic process in Guatemala, electing President Dr. Juan José Arévalo Bermejo, a professor of education and philosophy; and
- WHEREAS,** President Arévalo's administration focused on labor reform, education, a new constitution, and formation of a national system of social security, with one result being a dramatic increase in national literacy between 1944 and 1954; and
- WHEREAS,** in continued majority support of the Guatemalan Revolution, Colonel Jacobo Árbenz Guzmán was elected President in 1950 through free and fair elections, with the exception of the disenfranchisement of illiterate female voters; and
- WHEREAS,** agrarian reform was a major focus of President Árbenz' administration, leading to increased agricultural production; improved living standards for previously landless Mayan families; and compensation to former landowners at their land's self-declared tax value; and
- WHEREAS,** the histories of Guatemala and the United States of America are closely intertwined and increased awareness of those histories is beneficial to all; and
- WHEREAS,** in Lake Worth Beach, the Guatemalan-Maya Center and the organization Maya Iq' Balam, along with nationally the Organización Amancio Samuel Villatoro, work actively to foster pride in Guatemalan culture, customs and accomplishments for younger generations; and
- WHEREAS,** Guatemalan-American families in Lake Worth Beach are committed to maintaining both Guatemalan and American cultures, and to promoting cultural interchange; and
- WHEREAS,** as proud men and women, Guatemalan-Americans seek to participate and contribute to the social, educational, professional and political advancement of the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** the Guatemalan-American community has long hoped for the creation of a day of recognition—"El Dia del Guatemalteco" or "Guatemala Day"—to acknowledge the contributions and value of their culture and to pass these forward with pride to future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Betty Resch, Mayor of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me and on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 20, 2024

as

“EL DIA DEL GUATEMALTECO”

in the City Of Lake Worth Beach

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 15th day of October, 2024.

Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ann Coyne, MMC, City Clerk

