

# CITY OF UNION CITY

## PROCLAMATION

### *Recognizing October 25, 2019 as “Larry Itliong Day”*

*WHEREAS, Larry Itliong was a native of the Philippines and was born on October 25, 1913, in San Nicolas, Pangasinan; and*

*WHEREAS, at 15 years of age with only a sixth grade education, Larry Itliong moved to the United States of America in 1929. As a result of the Great Depression, Larry Itliong was forced to work on the railroads and then as a migrant farmworker traveling through Montana, South Dakota, Washington, and finally California. During that time, Larry Itliong learned of the plight suffered by Filipinos and other immigrants working as farm laborers; and*

*WHEREAS, Larry Itliong was a prominent leader in the American farm labor movement. He organized a group of 1,500 Filipinos to strike against the grape growers of Delano, California, and continued on that strike for eight days while suffering through violence imposed by the growers' hired hands and the sheriff's department, and being thrown out of the labor camp; and*

*WHEREAS, despite this treatment, Larry Itliong remained tenacious and resilient, calling upon César Chávez and his followers to join forces with the Filipinos and strike together. Due partly as a result of Larry Itliong's persuasiveness, the two groups combined, establishing the United Farm Workers of America Organizing Committee of the AFL-CIO, which led to the United Farm Workers of America; and*

*WHEREAS, Larry Itliong moved on to become the President of the Filipino American Political Association, the first national political Filipino American organization and a crucial alliance between Filipino professionals and laborers that grew out of the Delano Grape Strike; and*

*WHEREAS, Larry Itliong was also instrumental in the founding of the Pablo Agbayani Village, a retirement home built by volunteers for retired Filipino Manongs who no longer had families and needed a place to call home; and*

*WHEREAS, Larry Itliong passed away in 1977 at the age of 63 leaving behind his wife and seven children; and*

*WHEREAS, Larry Itliong's legacy has been acknowledged in Union City in part by the renaming of a school to Itliong-Vera Cruz Middle School in honor of the two farm labor movement leaders. It is the first school in the United States of America to be named after Filipino American Labor Leaders; and*

*WHEREAS, the accomplishments and contributions of Larry Itliong should be properly memorialized within the history and culture of the United States of America.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of Union City, does hereby proclaim October 25, 2019 as Larry Itliong Day throughout Union City.*

*DATED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2019*

---

*CAROL DUTRA-VERNACI, Mayor*

---

*GARY SINGH, Vice Mayor*

---

*EMILY DUNCAN, Councilmember*

---

*PAT GACOSCOS, Councilmember*

---

*JAIME PATIÑO, Councilmember*