

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 21-032

DECLARING THE PERIOD OF MARCH 21 TO APRIL 10 AS THE CESAR CHAVEZ &  
DOLORES HUERTA COMMEMORATIVE PERIOD IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, César Chávez is one of the most influential civil rights and labor leaders in American history, and was an advocate for farm workers rights, economic justice, environmental and social justice for all; and

WHEREAS, as the co-founder of the United Farm Workers union with Dolores Huerta, the two formed an amazing organizing team that successfully created a union for farm workers and won collective bargaining agreements providing increased wages, benefits and improved working conditions for some of the most oppressed workers in our society. They also became leaders and role models for the Chicana, Chicano, Chicanx and Latina, Latino, and Latinx communities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez and Dolores Huerta formed an amazing organizing team who believed that service to others was a calling, a mission and a way of life, not merely an occupation or an occasional act of charity. They both believed that people have an obligation to contribute to their communities and to help those in need. Both were and are committed to the idea that service not only strengthened a community, but that service benefited those individuals who joined together to improve a community; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez sadly passed away on April 23, 1993; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the City of Berkeley changed the name of Waterfront Park to César Chávez Park; and

WHEREAS, since 1999 the Berkeley Unified School Board has passed numerous resolutions supporting State Senator Richard Polanco's efforts to establish a César Chávez state holiday; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 the State of California declared César Chávez's birthday an official state holiday for state workers (March 31); and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the City of Berkeley along with the César Chávez Commemorative Planning Committee began to celebrate a citywide commemorative period – beginning on the Spring Equinox to mark the beginning of the planting season in agriculture and to mark the anniversary of Chávez’s death; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, the Berkeley City Council unanimously approved the Phase I Design for the Chávez Memorial proposed for César Chávez Park. It is in the form of an ancient solar calendar and honors four virtues of Chávez: Hope, Determination, Courage and Tolerance/non-violence; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Governor approved Assembly Bill 123 which amends Section 51008 of the Education Code to ensure that the state curriculum and framework, where appropriate, include instruction on Cesar Chavez and the history of the farm labor movement in the United States, and the role of immigrants, including Filipino Americans, in that movement, and that the state criteria for selecting textbooks include information to guide the selection of textbooks that contain sections that highlight the life and contributions of Cesar Chavez, the history of the farm labor movement in the United States, and the role of immigrants, including Filipino Americans, in that movement; and

WHEREAS Farmworkers ensure the continuity of our food supply and have been deemed essential workers during COVID-19 pandemic. The Chicana, Chicano, Chicanx and Latina, Latino, and Latinx communities have accounted for a disproportionate share of COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS A significant portion of farmworker labor in the US’ continues to be foreign workers under the H-2A Program, most of whom are indigenous and/or Latinx; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Chavez Commemorative Planning Committee voted to also honor Dolores Huerta in recognition of her vital partnership with César Chávez, her dedicated commitment to farm workers, and her activism and organizing on a variety of economic, environmental and social causes. The Committee voted to rename the group the Chávez/Huerta Commemorative Committee; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Chávez Huerta Commemorative Committee plans on shortening the commemorative period, beginning on the Spring Equinox on March 21, and ending on April 10, to mark Dolores Huerta’s birthday per Governor Gavin Newsom’s 2019 proclamation declaring April 10, 2019, as the first annual “Dolores Huerta Day” in the State of California.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District joins the City in declaring the period of March 21 to April 10 as the “César Chávez & Dolores Huerta Commemorative Period” in the City of Berkeley.

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during this Commemorative Period, Berkeley Unified School District students and staff will engage in district-wide learning, reflections, and celebrations of the contributions of César Chávez and Dolores Huerta as civil rights and labor leaders in American history;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during this Commemorative Period, Berkeley Unified School District and staff will celebrate and affirm the contributions of Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz and the rich history of labor organizing in California’s Filipina, Filipino, and Filipinx community;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commemorative Period will serve as one of the many ways that Berkeley Unified School District will celebrate and affirm the rich histories of the Chicano, Chicana, Chicanx, Filipina, Filipino, Filipinx, and the Latina, Latino, Latinx communities in our schools;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District, through the Education Services Department, will purchase and develop resources for educators and families that teach about, celebrate, uphold, and affirm the important contributions of César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, and Philip Vera Cruz as civil rights and labor leaders in California;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District, will encourage each school to :

- Host school-wide activities during the Commemorative Period to honor and uplift the contributions of César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, and Philip Vera Cruz.
- Engage students in service to their community during the commemorative period.
- Work in collaboration with the Office of Family Engagement and Equity, PTAs, and the Berkeley Federation of Teachers’ Teacher of Color Network to publicize widely and, in a culturally responsive way, what each school is doing to honor the legacies of César Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, and Philip Vera Cruz.

- Work in collaboration with the Office of Family Engagement and Equity and PTAs to engage families, caregivers, and community members in conversations around conceptualizing and developing community service events that create and strengthen the connections between school culture and local activism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that together the School Board of Directors and City Council members are encouraged to participate in the Chávez/Huerta Commemorative events in the Berkeley community.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education on the 10th of March, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Julie Sinai  
Clerk, Board of Education  
Berkeley Unified School District