



League of United Latin American Citizens

Resolution in Support of the Recognition of McDonnell Hall as a National Landmark

Whereas, President Obama established the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument at Nuestra Senora de La Paz in Keene, California on October 8, 2012 and in his Presidential Proclamation enumerated McDonnell Hall as a nationally significant site to be associated with the National Monument; and

Whereas, Bishop Patrick J. McGrath of the Diocese of San Jose has pursued recognition of McDonnell Hall as a National Historic Landmark and its restoration as a Chapel and demonstrated his commitment to historical preservation and interpretation of the site that has been called by Richard Chavez and Dolores Huerta as the place where the historic Farm Labor Movement began; and

Whereas, following the nomination of McDonnell Hall by California State Speaker Pro Tempore Nora Campos, the State of California recognized the site as a California Historical Landmark; and

Whereas, the City of San Jose established McDonnell Hall as an Historic Site under the leadership of San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Hilda Solis initiated the process of historical resource study relating to Cesar E. Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement with the passage of legislation signed by President George W. Bush in 2007; and

Whereas, the driving force for promoting recognition of McDonnell Hall are the spiritual roots of a humble church congregation of farm workers inspired to bring social change; and

Whereas, restoration of the Chapel, or McDonnell Hall, where these farm workers gathered to pray and organize a better life for themselves is being led by Pastor Father Jon Pedigo, who continues in the spirit of opening the church to organize the community for social change; and

Whereas, this effort has been brought forward by LULAC leadership in San Jose, namely former California State LULAC State Chaplain Rev. Deacon Sal Alvarez, who testified at the request of Congresswoman Hilda Solis before the U.S. Congressional Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands representing National

LULAC while also concurrently Chairing the National LULAC Commission on Healthcare;

Therefore, be it resolved that LULAC National urges that McDonnell Hall, or Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Chapel, in East San Jose, California be recognized by the Secretary of Interior as a National Historic Landmark

Voted and approved at the 2016 National LULAC Convention - July 16, 2016.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President