

RESOLUTION 130
The Leaders and Courageous People of Guarjila

WHEREAS, the Community of Guarjila, Chalatenango is celebrating 30 years of peace and prosperity since their return from the UNHCR refugee camp in Mesa Grande, Honduras on October 12, 1987; and

WHEREAS, since 1988, the St Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA) has accompanied this community, supporting various projects including the clinic and the school as well as bringing yearly delegations of students and friends to visit and learn of their struggles and successes; and

WHEREAS, the clinic founded by Sr. Ann Manganaro, SL, MD who left her work at Cardinal Glennon Hospital to provide medical care in Chalatenango during the last years of the civil war and who passed away from cancer in 1993, continues to serve the region as part of the National Healthcare System. It has grown from a local clinic to a referral center with specialists with outreach to 50,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon Cortino, SJ, who received his engineering degree from Saint Louis University, lived in Guarjila, designed the water system and the building of housing and other projects, is held in memory by the community after his passing in 2005; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the violence in the country, Guarjila, through strong organization and community support, has maintained peace and tranquility for the residents; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of the community is now the next generation of young people who have benefited from universal primary and secondary education and university scholarships provided by organizations like IFCLA. These small steps enable young people to remain in El Salvador as productive contributors to the future of the country; and

WHEREAS, a delegation from Saint Louis will travel to Guarjila in October to celebrate the anniversary of the community and want to bring greetings from the Board of Alders.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED by the Board of Alders of the City of Saint Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the community of Guarjila on the occasion of their thirtieth anniversary, and applauds the many achievements of the community. Saint Louis continues to be a companion community for the people of Guarjila with moral and material support. Saint Louis honors the memories of Sr. Ann Manganaro, SL and Fr. Jon Contina, SJ and their work in Guarjila. St Louis hopes for a future of mutual respect and cooperation between our cities and countries.

Introduced this 11th day of September, 2017 by:

The Honorable Stephen Conway, Alderman 8th Ward

Adopted this 15th day of September, 2017 as attested by:

Board of Aldermen
Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen