



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

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Title: A resolution recognizing the 20th anniversary of Conexión Américas.

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A resolution recognizing the 20th anniversary of Conexión Américas.

WHEREAS, in 2002, Conexión Américas’ three co-founders came together to address a growing need in our community - welcoming Latino immigrant families as they immigrated to Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, what started out as a small organization of three is now a Nashville institution, continuing to build a welcoming community, and create opportunities where Latino families can belong, contribute, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, between 1990 and 2000, the United States Census showed a 446% growth in the Hispanic population in Nashville. During this time, public agencies and nonprofit organizations were dramatically challenged by this wave of newcomers; and

WHEREAS, the founders of Conexión Américas, María Clara Mejía, José González, and Renata Soto, professionals in nonprofit, business and social development, understood that void and its challenges; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the co-founders teamed up with an existing small nonprofit group, the Hispanic Family Resource Center (HFRC), that was exclusively dedicated to providing information and referral services on health-related matters. The merger, which broadened services, allowed for the implementation of a holistic approach to help Latino families; and

WHEREAS, eventually, the original information and referral service of the HFRC evolved into the Spanish Help Line for Middle Tennessee. Conexión Américas’ programs now serve over 9,000 families and individuals each year; and

WHEREAS, Conexión Américas focuses on the social, economic, and civic integration of Latino families through various programs such as Escalera and Parents as Partners, and educational services spanning topics including taxes, homeownership, entrepreneurship, grassroots leadership development, and community

outreach and education; and

WHEREAS, Casa Azafrán, the nonprofit collaborative community center located on Nolensville Pike, is home to Conexión Américas along with nine other nonprofit partners; and

WHEREAS, today, Conexión Américas is recognized as a leading Hispanic force in the region, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Conexión Américas' 20th anniversary, Casa Azafrán will unveil "We All Belong," which is an art mural painted by members of the community and local artist Rubén Torres; and

WHEREAS, "Casa" means home in Spanish, and Conexión Américas' mission is to build a welcoming community where Latino families can belong, contribute and succeed; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognize Conexión Américas on its 20th anniversary for its tremendous contribution to Nashville and Davidson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing the 20th anniversary of Conexión Américas.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.