

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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MAYOR

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City Clerk

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CITY CLERK

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August 2, 2010

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council file

No. 10-1285, at its meeting held July 28, 2010.


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10-1285

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TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED	#53
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RESOLUTION

LUPITA TOVAR DAY

WHEREAS, Lupita Tovar is a remarkable and enduring star of worldwide cinema, responsible for landmark achievements and stunning artistry, and so we are thrilled to celebrate her enduring creative legacy and vibrant personality as she turns 100 years old on July 27, 2010; and

WHEREAS, as Los Angeles Times movie critic and author Kevin Thomas has written, "Lupita Tovar is Hollywood royalty, a woman of beauty and charm, wit and intelligence, warmth and enthusiasm." The renowned film historian, Kevin Brownlow has stated that "To call Lupita Tovar's story dramatic is to underestimate it. Her life would make an epic film – but where would one find such an enchanting person for the lead?" We therefore honor Lupita, take inspiration in her life story and contributions to cinema (both silent and sound), and rejoice on this special centennial birthday; and

WHEREAS, Lupita was born in the state of Oaxaca on July 27, 1910, and grew up as the eldest of nine children, in poor surroundings and at a time of great turmoil marked by the start of the Mexican Revolution. Lupita survived and triumphed over much hardship, becoming a unique treasure in the worldwide cinematic pantheon, a co-founder of a familial motion picture dynasty, and a longtime presence in the life of our city; and

WHEREAS, at age 17 she was discovered by the famed documentary filmmaker Robert Flaherty while acting in a school play in Mexico City, and won a chance to head to Hollywood, where she would enjoy outstanding success, in large part due to her extraordinary dedication and work ethic, focused significantly through her rigorous studies in guitar, dance, dramatics and English; and

WHEREAS, Lupita acted in more than 35 movies, from the last vestiges of the silent film era, in 1929, through 1945, in Hollywood, Mexico and Europe. She was the glorious, evocative star in 1931's *Santa*, the very first talkie made in Mexico. Her leading men were as varied as Hollywood greats Buster Keaton and Buck Jones. She appeared first in Fox silent films before heading to Universal, where she appeared in the Spanish-language versions of films such as *Dracula* (also made in 1931). Those Spanish-language versions were often done at night, using the same sets employed during the day when the English-language movies were being made. It would be a grievous mistake to assume that the Spanish-language versions were inferior, second-rate copies; indeed, many critics and audiences consider the Spanish-language version of *Dracula*, starring Lupita, to be superior to the classic English-language version shot at the same time, though the latter has a firm place in the annals of horror films; and

WHEREAS, following the success of her first Spanish-language film, *La Voluntad del Muerto*, made in 1930, Lupita Tovar was given the title, "La Novia de Mexico"—the Sweetheart of Mexico. Indeed, Lupita's friend, the great Mexican muralist, Diego Rivera, did a portrait of Lupita with the inscription "La Novia de Mexico," painted at the top. Images of Lupita have blessed, sparked and enthralled the imagination of Mexico for all these years since, as has been evidenced by the issuance, far into her retirement, of a Mexican postage stamp she adorns; and

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WHEREAS; Lupita married Paul Kohner in 1932. Kohner was a major producer at Universal Studios and later a legendary talent agent: the Paul Kohner Agency represented some of the most sought-after stars of the 20th Century. In 1938, Kohner founded the European Film Fund, an important aid organization that provided crucial financial as well as moral help to refugees from Nazi Germany and German occupied territory. Without the heroic assistance of the Fund, countless persons desperate to escape would have been left stranded without money, desperately waiting for affidavits, visas, or job contracts in order to legally enter US territory; and

WHEREAS, Lupita and Paul had two children: daughter Susan would be nominated for an Academy Award for her role in Douglas Sirk's *Imitation of Life*, and son Pancho would continue in his father's footsteps as a notable producer. Lupita and Paul's grandsons, Chris and Paul Weitz, are notable directors/producers/writers responsible, individually or jointly, for such works as *American Pie*, *About a Boy*, *New Moon*, *Twilight*, *The Golden Compass* and many more films and other creative endeavors. Other beloved grandchildren include Melissa Kohner, completing her degree in Psychology; Alexander Kohner, a partner in a prominent entertainment law firm; David Olsen; Emily Hunt, and Katrina Holden Bronson. Lupita and Paul's great grandchildren are Charlotte, Daisy, Jane, Max, Sebastian, Riley and Sophia; and

WHEREAS, sadly, Paul Kohner passed away in 1988; he and Lupita had been married for 56 years. Their devotion to each other, and to their family, friends and craft, continues to gladden the hearts of those who delighted in their company; and

WHEREAS, Lupita will be enjoying her birthday festivities in the Los Angeles home she and Paul bought in 1936 and where, on July 27th, she will be surrounded, yet again, by friends, family and admirers. Her memoirs are about to be released, thanks to the efforts of her son, Pancho, and his wife, Maggie, who have been carefully writing down Lupita's fascinating accounts of her life. For generations to come, people will be illuminated and charmed by Lupita's unique journey that touches us still:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Los Angeles hereby salutes and celebrates Lupita Tovar by declaring July 27th, 2010 "Lupita Tovar Day" in the City of Los Angeles, and wishes her the happiest of birthdays on that date. Lupita Tovar has transformed cinema and amazed anyone who has had the pleasure of seeing her on the silver screen. Through her steadfast ways and caring deeds, and by virtue of the marvels of her career, character and life, Lupita Tovar has made the City of Los Angeles a better place in which to live.

ADOPTED

JUL 28 2010

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

Presented by:


PAUL KORETZ

Co-Presented by:


BILL ROSENDAHL

Seconded by:

