

MOTION

Richard G. Polanco, former Senate Majority Leader and Chairman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, has often been quoted as saying the “*Latino Agenda is an American Agenda: good jobs, decent housing, safe neighborhoods, access to health care, and equal opportunity in education.*” He served in the California legislature from 1986 to 2002, including as State Senate Majority Leader (1998–2002). As chair of the Latino Legislative Caucus (1990–2000), he helped increase the number of Democratic Latino legislators statewide from 7 to 24 and aided in electing the first Latino Speaker of the Assembly.

Prior to being elected, Richard Polanco was instrumental in founding Arroyo Vista Family Health Center and Las Mujeres Recovery Home. He secured funding for lights at Garfield High School’s football field and helped create and facilitate an agreement between LA County Parks and Recreation and the LA Unified School District.

He began his career as a youth counselor at Casa Maravilla Youth Center and community organizer with TELACU. He went on to serve as Executive Director of the Maravilla Project Area Committee, Assistant Deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman, Special Assistant to Governor Jerry Brown, and Chief of Staff for Assembly Member Richard Alatorre.

Richard Polanco is known for advocating for disenfranchised people in California. He helped pass the California Voting Rights Act, promoted healthcare legislation for people affected by HIV/ AIDS, and secured \$10 million in funding to assist over 500,000 immigrants in becoming citizens. Polanco passed legislation to support small businesses through the COIN program, California Arts License Plates to fund nonprofits, and California Breast Cancer to support victims, and established the Cesar Chavez Holiday of Community Service to honor his legacy.

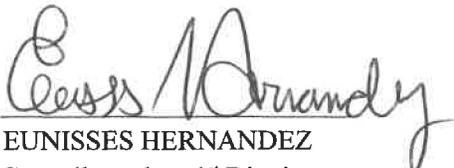
Richard G. Polanco has consistently worked to preserve landmarks and increase green spaces, securing funding for sites such as the Cornfield, LA River Center, and Van De Camp Bakery. He also passed over 250 bills signed into law under three Governors.

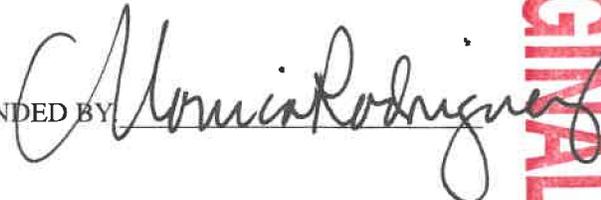
The California Latino Legislative Caucus established the Richard G. Polanco Fellow Program, offering Latino college graduates a year-long stipend to work with state legislators in Sacramento. The Chrysler & Latino Caucus Academy trains new local officials on how to govern, while the Madrina’s and Padrino’s Leadership Program supports young professionals and encourages public policy advocacy. Richard Polanco served as Chairman and CEO of the California Legislative Caucus Institute for Public Policy, a nonprofit focused on education and leadership in public policy.

Richard G. Polanco continues his commitment to community service by serving as Chair of Plaza Community Services, Advisor to the UCLA Latino Institute for Politics and Policy, and Vice Chair of Woodcraft Rangers, where he supports extended after-school learning programs. He is married to Olivia Pena Polanco and has resided in Mt. Washington for over 25 years.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council INSTRUCT the Department of Transportation to fabricate and install a permanent ceremonial sign designating the intersection of Avenue 26 and N. San Fernando Rd by the LA River Center as “Senator Richard Polanco Square.”

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council AUTHORIZE the Department of Transportation to make technical corrections or clarifications to effectuate the intent of this motion.

PRESENTED BY:   
EUNISSES HERNANDEZ  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

MAR 11 2026

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