

CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY, IMMIGRATION,  
AGING AND DISABILITY  
**MOTION**

On March 18, 2026, The New York Times published an extensive investigation—corroborated by interviews with more than 60 individuals, union records, and documentary evidence—revealing that Cesar Chavez engaged in a decades-long pattern of sexual abuse, assault, and exploitation of women and minors within the farmworkers movement. In an act of profound courage, Ana Murguia, Debra Rojas, and Dolores Huerta came forward with testimony that brought long-hidden truths to light. These women carried the weight of their experiences for decades—not out of weakness, but out of an extraordinary devotion to a movement they deeply believed in and were integral to building.

The farmworkers movement is one of the most consequential labor and civil rights struggles in American history. It was forged in the grape fields of Delano, sustained through years of strikes, marches, boycotts, and fasts, and responsible for landmark protections that transformed the lives of millions of working people across this nation. It produced the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, the first law in the country granting farmworkers the right to organize and collectively bargain. It changed the conscience of a nation. And it was always, from its very first day, a movement of the many.

The movement has been sustained by undocumented and immigrant workers. People who labored under the most dangerous and exploitative conditions in America. They have been exposed to pesticides, denied basic rights, and paid near-nothing wages. Yet these workers braved picket lines at the risk of deportation, retaliation, or worse. They selflessly marched, fasted, boycotted for the dignity of every worker who would come after them. These farmworkers built a movement based on labor and sacrifice — the most central tenet of the American struggle. And it was women — at every level and in every capacity — who held this movement together. Women organized boycotts that brought growers to the bargaining table. Women built the first farmworkers' union in this country. Women ran the credit unions, managed union operations, recruited members, and led demonstrations in the face of intimidation. Women negotiated the contracts that changed the law. And too often, women bore the greatest personal costs — in the fields and within the movement — while receiving the least recognition. The farmworkers' movement was not built to credit its women; it was built by them. This City has a deep obligation to represent them as we move forward.

When the story of a movement is reduced to a single name, the richness and complexity of that history is lost. The Filipino workers who started the strike are often forgotten. The undocumented families who sustained the boycotts fade into the background despite the personal risks they took. The women who held the infrastructure of organizing together go unrecognized. Los Angeles—a city shaped profoundly by the farmworker struggle, home to one of the largest and most diverse populations of farmworker descendants in the country—has both the opportunity and the obligation to tell a story that is worthy and honoring of the people who lived it.


On March 19, 2026, Mayor Bass, joined by members of the City Council, signed a proclamation redesignating the City's annual observance of Cesar Chavez Day as Farmworkers Day. The City Council should go further by conducting a full re-evaluation of all existing city-owned and managed assets, facilities, and projects named after Cesar Chavez, and initiating a community-informed process that centers the voices of farmworker communities, Filipino American families, immigrant and undocumented worker communities, labor organizations, survivors, and the femme leaders whose work has always been the backbone of this movement, to rename those facilities in a manner that honors the full breadth and truth of the farmworker struggle.


**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council **INSTRUCT** the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with assistance from the City Administrative Officer and any relevant Department, to report back


  
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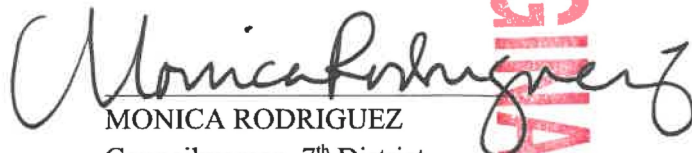
in 30 days with a full inventory of city-owned or managed assets, facilities, and projects, including but not limited to streets, buildings, parks, recreational centers, community gardens, murals, and monuments, named after Cesar Chavez or any variation.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council **INSTRUCT** the CLA, with assistance of the the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department and the City Clerk, to report back in 30 days with a community-informed framework and process that engages community members and stakeholders of the farmworker movement, such as the Filipino American labor community, the descendants of the original United Farm Workers (UFW) strikers, and survivors of labor exploitation, to rename the City-owned and managed assets, facilities, and projects named after Cesar Chavez.

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

  
YSABEL JURADO  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

  
IMELDA PADILLA  
Councilmember, 6<sup>th</sup> District

  
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

ORIGINAL

SECONDED BY: 

