

Proclamation - June 13, 2022

WHEREAS, Jaime Garcia moved to Illinois from Mexico City at age 9, settled in Elgin in 1970 to start the bilingual program at School District U-46, and eventually served as principal of Sunnydale Elementary from 1995 until his retirement from U-46 in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garcia was instrumental in the starting of El Mesias United Methodist Church and then, while working part-time with the United Methodist churches in Elgin, worked with Reverend Ivan Rivera in 1972 to start an organization (Centro de Información) that offered information, advocacy, and referrals to local Latinos to help them gain skills and tools to integrate into the broader society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garcia served on Centro's board of directors until 2007, when he began his tenure as executive director; and

WHEREAS, Centro de Información is celebrating its 50th anniversary and now helps more than 15,000 predominantly low-income Hispanic immigrants each year by providing individual and family counseling, bilingual advocacy, information and referrals, immigration and naturalization services, parenting skills training, community education and youth programs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garcia has served on the boards of many organizations such as Elgin Hispanic Network, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Rotary Club, and KCT Credit Union, as well as being part of the Workforce Development Committee of the Elgin Area Chamber and an integral part of Elgin's New Citizen Recognition Ceremony Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garcia was heavily involved in Elgin's Census 2010 and 2020, helping to reduce an undercount of Latinos and bringing more federal funds to the Elgin area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garcia is retiring from Centro de Información on June 30th, leaving the organization and the community better because of his many years of service;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ken Bruderle, Supervisor of the Township of Elgin, in the great state of Illinois, in recognition of the impactful contributions that Jaime Garcia has made to Elgin Township, do hereby extend the sincere appreciation and honor to Mr. Garcia for his longstanding and extensive commitment to the residents of Elgin Township, celebrate his many contributions and achievements throughout his years of service, and extend him best wishes in his upcoming (and hopefully, successful) retirement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of Elgin Township to be affixed this 13th day in June, in the year Two Thousand Twenty-two.

Kenneth C. Bruderle
Elgin Township Supervisor

Karen Dowling
Elgin Township Clerk

