

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-250

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 9, 2018

To recognize and honor José Ramón Andrés Puerta, an outstanding Spanish-American chef with several restaurants in the District of Columbia who is an internationally recognized culinary innovator, author, educator, and humanitarian, for his remarkable humanitarian efforts in providing healthy foods to families and individuals touched by disasters.

WHEREAS, in 1991, Chef Andrés immigrated to the United States, bringing with him a vast knowledge of Spanish culinary skills, which he gained after serving in the Spanish Navy, and became a United States citizen in 2013;

WHEREAS, Chef Andrés is a distinguished award-winning chef with prestigious honors that include being named an “Outstanding Chef” by the James Beard Foundation and a lifetime achievement award from the International Association of Culinary Professionals;

WHEREAS, while Chef Andrés’s impressive culinary background and accomplishments alone would set him apart as one of our country’s most successful chefs, his most superlative talent is his active humanitarian support for those in dire need, no matter their walk of life or place of residence;

WHEREAS, a committed global citizen, Chef Andrés has benefited the lives of thousands of individuals through his personal philanthropy and ability to empower other chefs to give back through education, social enterprise, job creation, and the promotion of healthy and accessible foods;

WHEREAS, after witnessing the aftermath of the catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti in 2010, Chef Andrés founded the World Central Kitchen, a nonprofit organization that works to improve health, increase education rates, provide career skills, and create food businesses throughout Central America, South America, and Africa;

WHEREAS, when Hurricane Harvey submerged Houston, Texas in August of 2017, Chef Andrés flew to Texas to personally purchase and prepare food for flood evacuees and relief workers, and, once he was able to secure a kitchen, Chef Andrés coordinated multiple volunteer chefs to provide food aid through the World Central Kitchen’s Texas Strong Chef Network;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, only 5 days after Hurricane Maria made landfall and devastated Puerto Rico in September of 2017, Chef Andrés mobilized multiple chefs and hundreds of volunteers through World Central Kitchen to respond to the extreme food insecurity and humanitarian crisis caused by the storm;

WHEREAS, within a week of working on the island, Chef Andrés and his team produced more than 25,000 meals per day, free of charge, for those in need, and, in the months that followed, Chef Andrés and the World Central Kitchen volunteers prepared and delivered more than 3 million meals on the island that had been largely decimated by hurricanes Irma and Maria;

WHEREAS, Chef Andrés and the Word Central Kitchen are also working collaboratively with L.A. Kitchen to serve hundreds of meals each day –feeding first responders and people in shelters who have been affected by wildfires in southern California;

WHEREAS, through the Think Food Group, Chef Andrés owns 26 restaurants and food trucks located throughout the United States and Mexico, including 9 restaurants in the District of Columbia, all of which strive to showcase the stories and experiences of different cultures through food;

WHEREAS, as Chair Emeritus of DC Central Kitchen, Chef Andrés works with the organization to end hunger in the District while training jobless residents in the culinary arts to provide them with the skills needed to succeed in the restaurant business;

WHEREAS, Chef Andrés has partnered with the District’s School Without Walls to create the Integrated Food Project, an effort to promote academics and teach students about food and health on The George Washington University’s campus;

WHEREAS, Chef Andrés has coordinated healthy eating and sustainability initiatives at The George Washington University as a member of the Urban Food Task Force, where Chef Andrés served as a lecturer on the vast, complex impact of food through a course entitled, The World on a Plate: How Food Shapes Civilization;

WHEREAS, in recognition of his extensive humanitarian work and the World Central Kitchen’s projects in Brazil, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru, and Zambia, Chef Andrés was awarded the 2014 McCall-Pierpaoli Humanitarian Award from Refugees International and was later presented the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the District is proud to have as a friend and neighbor Chef Andrés, who is the embodiment of the vital and enormous contributions immigrants make to our country.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Chef José Andrés Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes Chef José Andrés and his extensive contributions to the world as a culinary innovator and an ideal humanitarian.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.