

STATEMENT FOLLOWING TODAY'S CITY COUNCIL MEETING

For the past eight years, the Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration Committee of Lubbock has followed protocol and requirements to rename Canyon Lakes Drive and streets on the course of Canyon Lakes Trail, to Cesar E. Chavez Drive.

Cesar E. Chavez, an icon highly regarded by many Lubbock Latinos and others across the nation, promoted nonviolence and advocated for migrant farm workers.

The Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration Committee is extremely disappointed with the Lubbock City Council who did not second a motion made by District 1 Representative, Council Woman Linda DeLeon, to rename streets on Canyon Lakes Trail, which would connect portions of streets already named Cesar E. Chavez Drive.

Further, the Committee acknowledges that the comments made by Carlos Quintanilla, a resident of Dallas, during the public hearing at today's city council meeting, were not representative of the local Cesar E. Chavez Committee.

The Committee further believes that the Lubbock City Council has not displayed equity in the process of renaming a street after a Latino in Lubbock.

"Other street renaming efforts have not experienced the inequity that our effort has endured," said Christy Martinez-Garcia, Chair of the Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration Committee.

The streets in question - North Avenue "U", Cornell Street, North Avenue "N", Baylor Street, North Avenue "K", and 1st Street are on the route generally from Erskine Street into Aztlan Park, and are in neighborhoods located primarily by Mexican Americans.

Almost 100% of the residents on the abutting street supported the street renaming by signing a mandated petition. Moreover, after the appropriate requirements were fulfilled by the Committee, the Planning & Zoning Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Lubbock City Council that the aforementioned streets should be renamed.

The unsupportive decision was made on the heels of today's announcement by the Committee that the Texas State Historical Commission approved a state historical marker acknowledging Migrant Labor Camps of Lubbock on this same course.

"It's never been a straight and smooth road for Mexican Americans in Lubbock. This lack of support by the Lubbock City Council demonstrates that our voice is yet to be heard," said Martinez-Garcia. -30-