

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2023

Contact: Devyn Bakewell, (213) 421-4031

Email: Devyn.Bakewell@lacity.org

**Councilwoman Heather Hutt Introduces Motion to Name a Portion of Pico Boulevard the
“Oaxacan Corridor”**

[Los Angeles, CA] The Office of Council District 10 is excited to announce that, on September 12, 2023, Councilwoman Heather Hutt introduced a motion to rename a portion of Pico Boulevard as the “Oaxacan Corridor”.

The City of Los Angeles is home to the second largest group of Oaxaqueños outside of the state of Oaxaca, and has been home to this proud community for decades. Migrants left Mexico for destinations in the U.S. as early as the 1940s, and many found contract work through the Bracero Program. After the program ended in 1964, Oaxacans sought jobs in agricultural and service industries settling throughout California. International or transnational migration increased rapidly throughout the last two decades of the 20th century. By the year 2000, Oaxaca was well-represented in the migrant stream heading for the US, and particularly settling in the City of Los Angeles.

The area of Pico Boulevard, between Arlington Avenue and Westmoreland Avenue, is home to many Oaxacan businesses. Naming this area the “Oaxacan Corridor” will stimulate more traffic to the area, as well as highlight the contributions of the Oaxacan community. Part of the Oaxacan Corridor Project will also include additional enhancements that improve the area and bring Oaxacaqueno-Centered beautification to the corridor.

“As Councilwoman for our great City, I feel strongly about preserving the history, communities, and individuals who have brought us thus far. For over six decades, Oaxaqueños have called the area of Pico Boulevard, between Arlington Avenue and Westmoreland Avenue, their home, establishing businesses and growing a successful community.” said **Councilwoman Heather Hutt (CD10)**. “ Los Angeles must continue to empower and celebrate the cultures and rich tapestry of all its people. I am proud of the mark this community has made within the Tenth District and the City, and am honored to pay homage to their contributions and culture by naming this beloved area the Oaxacan Corridor.”

The motion introduced today was seconded by Councilmembers Eunisses Hernandez (CD1) and Tim McOsker (CD15).

“Los Angeles is home to the largest population of Oaxacans in the United States,” said **Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez (CD1)**. “This community is part of the fabric of Los Angeles and CD1, and I’m proud to work with our Oaxacan community and Councilmembers Hutt and McOsker to finally make the Oaxacan Corridor Project a reality. This network of businesses, entrepreneurs, families, and micro-communities has existed for decades along Pico Boulevard and together we can continue to uplift and celebrate the incredible role that Oaxacan culture plays in Los Angeles.

A strong community is full of respect and celebration of all cultures. With Los Angeles being the largest Oaxacan population outside of Mexico, it’s important we uplift the incredible impact they have made to our city in a meaningful way. With a dedicated corridor, we can truly honor the contributions of our Oaxacan community’s rich indigenous culture for generations to come,” said **Councilmember Tim McOsker (CD15)**

As word of the Oaxacan Corridor has spread, various members of, both the Oaxaqueño community and the Los Angeles community, have already expressed their excitement and support.

“We would like to take the opportunity and thank Councilwoman Hutt for her support and leadership in making the Oaxacan Corridor a reality, a project that Regional Organization of Oaxaca has pushed since 2013 with its focus on Pico Blvd, a street with over 50 small Oaxacan owned businesses. This area is also important for the Oaxacan community since it also has a large number of Oaxacan families that live in the surrounding area but also contribute largely in the economy, culture and traditions to the city of Los Angeles which is quite visible. Oaxacans are unique with its gastronomy, art, music and traditions which impact positively and enhance the diversity of the city of Los Angeles. In addition, Oaxacans are fortunate to be very hard-working people and can be seen in almost all sectors of the economy of the city of Los Angeles. For these reasons, our community deserves that the city of Los Angeles grants the Oaxacan community the naming of part of Pico Blvd with the name of the “OAXACAN CORRIDOR.”” said the Regional Organization of Oaxaca.

“The Indigenous Oaxacan communities has existed in LA county and contributed to our city financially , culturally , and politically, constantly surviving racism and discrimination including from City officials. It is time for our presence as an indigenous people to be recognized.” said Odilia Romero, Executive Director at Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo (CIELO).

“Thank you to Heather Hutt who thinks about the indigenous community. As a Oaxacan and a businessman, I am happy to know that soon we can have a Oaxacan Corridor that identifies me, but than anything, a little piece of Oaxaca will be on the streets of Los Angeles.” Raul Lico, owner of Lico Music Academy.

“It’s a great honor as a business owner in the area for more than 20 years to finally have something that represents us the Oaxacan community like the corridor Oaxaqueño . I'm happy to be able to experience this one of a lifetime opportunity and get to have a piece of home near me,” said Sabina Aguilar, owner of Tlacolula Restaurant & Bakery.

“As a Oaxacan businessman, knowing that the Oaxacan Corridor will be on the street where I have my business can soon become a reality is a source of pride for me and the community we serve. Thank you to Councilwoman Hutt who does everything possible to support the Oaxacan community and have a little piece of my beautiful state here in Los Angeles, CA,” said the owner of Chocolate Cafe Kitchen.

“For many years I have contributed to the city with my business, Oaxaca Hardware Inc, that I have on Pico [Blvd.], a business that supports people who need repair items for their homes. Hearing that in the future it will be called the Oaxacan Corridor identifies me and makes me feel more like part of the community. Thanks to Councilwoman Hutt who supports this project,” Gilberto Morales, owner of Oaxaca Hardware, Inc.

“Living the Oaxacan culture in Los Angeles is like following the traditions of our ancestors. By having an identity with the Oaxacan corridor on the peak, a street where I have my music academy is to keep my traditions alive.” said Estanislao Maqueos, owner of Maqueos Music Academy

“I left my beautiful state of Oaxaca with the hope of working and doing something for my community. Today I am happy to have 5 businesses that support the city economically where I have 3 of my businesses on Pico Street, which are El Chapulin Restaurant, La Mayordomia and the Expresion store. Having an Oaxacan corridor on the Pico would identify me more as an Oaxacan since my businesses are part of the community,” said Business Owner Zefferino Garcia.

For more information, visit the Council District 10 Website: <https://councildistrict10.lacity.gov/>.

###.

