RESOLUTION

NO. R-26-422

CITY HALL: October 1, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORRELL

SECONDED BY:

A RESOLUTION honoring the late Frank Perez, beloved historian, author, tour guide, and personality in the French Quarter, who chronicled decades of New Orleans LGBTQ+ history.

WHEREAS, a native of Baton Rouge, Frank Perez lauded Louisiana historical giants, such as Huey P. Long, for their masterful grasp of storytelling, which inspired him to serve as a legislative page in the Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, he attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, earning both a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in English; and

WHEREAS, his time in Lafayette marked a pivotal moment in his life when Frank was publicly outed as LGBTQ+ and forced to attend conversion therapy in Kansas — a practice not recognized by mental health professionals and regarded as traumatic and harmful to participants; and

WHEREAS, during his time at conversion therapy, Frank befriended a man named Eddie, who Frank credits with saving his life by introducing him to the starlets of the Hollywood golden era, including Bette Davis, who he greatly admired; and

WHEREAS, Frank's political awakening can be traced to Eddie's death due to AIDS in the midst of the AIDS epidemic — when Frank notified Eddie's parents of his death, they callously responded with, "We don't have a son"; and

WHEREAS, following Hurricane Katrina, when many left the city, Frank Perez decided to call it home, and quickly established himself as a community leader and voice; and

WHEREAS, a prolific writer, Frank authored multiple books creating a published record of New Orleans' queer history, including *In Exile: The History and Lore Surrounding New Orleans Gay Culture and Its Oldest Gay Bar*, *Treasures of the Vieux Carre: Ten Self-Guided Walking Tours of the French Quarter*, *Political Animal: The Life and Times of Stewart Butler*, *Rainbow Fleur de Lis: Essays on Queer New Orleans History*; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, at the invitation of local gay entrepreneur and editor Rip Naquin, Frank began to author a weekly history column in Ambush Magazine, a gay French Quarter publication for which he was later named Editor-in-chief; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Frank co-founded the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana to "get our history out of the closet" with the mission of promoting and encouraging the protection and preservation of materials chronicling the culture and history of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Frank, who loved Mardi Gras more than any other holiday, also founded the Mystik Krewe de la Rue Royale Revelers in 2014, throwing an annual Twelfth Night party that came to symbolize the definitive start of the Gay Carnival season with its naming of a "Grand Reveler" by the "Lord of Misrule," a.k.a. Frank himself; and

WHEREAS, not just a prolific writer, Frank's advocacy manifested directly into his community, with recognitions such as being named one of the 2018 Grand Marshals of Southern Decadence, as well as placing third overall for a City Council District C run in 2021; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2026, Frank Perez passed away surrounded by loved ones, including his partner, Chris Trentacoste, after a brief and aggressive bout of cancer; and

WHEREAS, Frank's legacy of advocacy, authorship, dedication, and service to his community left an indelible mark on the City of New Orleans and the LGBTQ+ community; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that the City Council recognizes the life and work of Frank Perez, who was a friend to this New Orleans City Council and Mayor Helena Moreno, as well as a friend to anyone who would let Frank bend their ear; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council sends their deepest condolences to Frank's partner, Chris, the Perez family, and the New Orleans LGBTQ+ community as a whole.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.