

## **RESOLUTION NO. 041083**

### **Honoring the Mattie Rhodes Center on its sixth annual Dia de los Muertos.**

WHEREAS, from October 1 through November 13, 2004, Mattie Rhodes Center is proud to present the sixth annual Dia de los Muertos; and

WHEREAS, more than 500 years ago, when Spanish Conquistadors landed in what is now Mexico, they encountered natives practicing a ritual that seemed to mock death. A ritual that the indigenous people had been practicing at least 3,000 years that the Spaniards would try unsuccessfully to eradicate; and

WHEREAS, the Aztecs and other Meso-Americans, unlike the Spaniards who viewed death as the end of life, viewed death as the continuation of life. Instead of fearing it they embraced it. To them, life was a dream and only in death did they become truly awake; and

WHEREAS, the Mattie Rhodes Center, in an effort to educate the public on an important and traditional Mexican celebration has over the last three years presented a celebration which signifies appreciation for Mexican culture; and

WHEREAS, Mattie Rhodes Center opened a Gallery in 1999 to provide a venue for local Hispanic artists to display their work as well as promote cultural celebrations of the Hispanic community such as Dia de los Muertos; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 more than 12,000 adults and children from 110 different zip codes in the bi-state region have enjoyed gallery openings and hands-on visual arts activities sponsored by the Mattie Rhodes Center. Among the cultural celebrations have included Visions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Machismo y Feminismo, Children's Show, and the Multi-cultural celebration; and

WHEREAS, established in 1894, Mattie Rhodes Center's mission is to strengthen Kansas City children, families and communities by providing professional social services, mental health counseling and art experiences in a bilingual, culturally sensitive environment; and

WHEREAS, Dia de los Muertos Exhibit opening reception at Mattie Rhodes Gallery located at 919 West 17th Street in Kansas City, Missouri, is on Friday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m. The street festival is on Saturday, October 2 at 1:00 p.m. The exhibit is sponsored by the Mattie Rhodes Center and in part by the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund. The festival will offer entertainment, refreshments, a magician, and a display of "ofrendas" or altars made by area families, high schools and local artists; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:**

That the Mayor and Council hereby honor the Mattie Rhodes Center on its sixth annual Dia de los Muertos; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to Mattie Rhodes Center with the Mayor and Council calling on the people of Kansas City, Missouri, to join with Mexico in this celebration of Dia de los Muertos.

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