

MOTION

Born in 1918 in Mexico to a Mexican Revolutionary family, Bert Corona would go on to become a prominent advocate for and leader in the labor and immigrants' rights movements in the United States. Corona grew up in El Paso, Texas before moving to Los Angeles to attend the University of Southern California (USC) on a full athletic scholarship for basketball. However, Corona would leave USC early to accept a job as a union organizer for workers in the canning and packing industries, working alongside César Chávez.

In 1950, Corona became a regional organizer for the National Association of Mexican Americans, expanding his advocacy to not only fighting for the rights of laborers, but those of undocumented immigrants. In 1976, Corona would assume leadership of La Hermandad Mexicana Nacional as its executive director here in Los Angeles. La Hermandad, a non-profit providing immigration and citizenship support and services to the immigrant community, was one of the first groups to organize undocumented workers, as well as resist efforts to dehumanize and criminalize the people who had come to this country without documentation.

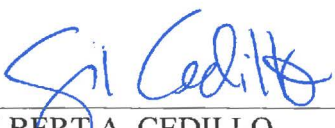
La Hermandad Mexicana Nacional, under Corona's leadership, fought crackdowns against undocumented workers, advocated and pushed for amnesty and legislation to provide citizenship to undocumented families and individuals. Legislation included an amnesty program for undocumented workers under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which provided citizenship to nearly 3 million undocumented immigrants. La Hermandad would eventually open offices across multiple states and has helped thousands of immigrants become legal residents.

In addition to working as a union organizer and civil rights leader, Corona worked as an educator, teaching at Stanford University and California State University, Los Angeles. Corona passed away in 2001 at the age of 82.

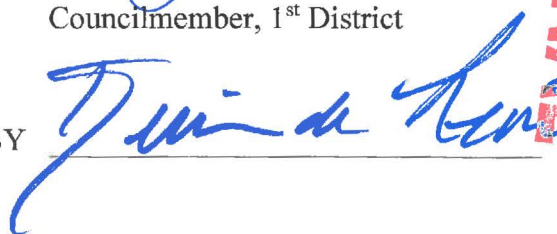
In recognition of Corona's work and the lasting legacy that he has left behind championing the rights of undocumented workers, Mexican Americans, and other Latinos in the United States, it is appropriate that the City name the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Pico Boulevard as "Bert Corona Square."

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection at New Hampshire Avenue and Pico Boulevard be named as "**Bert Corona Square**" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY


GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY



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