

# CITY OF FRESNO

*Office Of Council Vice President Miguel A. Arias*

**WHEREAS,** Juan Esparza Loera, one of four children born to the late Juan Jiménez Esparza and Josefina Shockley, grew up in West Texas and Southern New Mexico before migrating with his family to Earlimart, California, where he later graduated from Delano High School, attended Bakersfield Junior College, and earned a bachelor’s degree in Mass Communications from California State University, Fresno; and

**WHEREAS,** Juan Esparza Loera began his journalism career in 1974 at The Bakersfield Californian, and later joined The Modesto Bee and The Fresno Bee, covering sports, business, weekend and special projects, most recently named as Opinion Editor at The Fresno Bee and a member of its Editorial Board, continuing his longstanding dedication to thoughtful public discourse and informed civic dialogue; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1990, Juan Esparza Loera became the founding editor of Vida en el Valle, a groundbreaking bilingual publication that was named the nation’s top bilingual newspaper and grew to serve communities throughout California’s Central Valley, including Fresno, Merced, Modesto, Stockton, and Sacramento; and

**WHEREAS,** Juan Esparza Loera’s exceptional work has earned him numerous awards, including the Mexicanos Distinguidos Award from by the Mexican Consulate in Fresno, a Lifetime Achievement Award by the California Chicano News Media Association, recognition in Hispanic Media 100 by the TJFR, and numerous awards for writing, page design, and photography from the National Association of Hispanic Publications, California News Publishers Association, and New America Media; and

**WHEREAS,** Juan Esparza Loera has devoted 50 years of distinguished service to a career in journalism as a pioneering bilingual Spanish-language journalist, expanding access to information for diverse communities, his retirement marks the end of a remarkable chapter in local journalism, and we extend our best wishes as he enters a new chapter in life.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that we, Mayor Jerry P. Dyer and the Fresno City Council, do hereby proclaim January 15th, 2026, to be:

## “Juan Esparza Loera Day”

*in the City of Fresno.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Great Seal of the City of Fresno, California, on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.*

**JERRY P. DYER**, Honorable Mayor

**MIGUEL A. ARIAS**, Council Vice President, District 3

**MIKE KARBASSI**, Council President, District 2

**ANNALISA PEREA**, Councilmember, District 1

**TYLER MAXWELL**, Councilmember, District 4

**BRANDON VANG**, Councilmember, District 5

**NICK RICHARDSON**, Councilmember, District 6

**NELSON ESPARZA**, Councilmember, District 7