

WHEREAS, Sergio Julian Ramos was born on December 9, 1946, in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, Sergio has worked in the jewelry industry for more than 50 years after beginning his apprenticeship at 15 in Havana; and

WHEREAS, by his early 20s, he had become a master jeweler, designing and fabricating handmade jewelry with old-world techniques handed down through generations; and

WHEREAS, along with his family, he was granted political asylum by the U.S. government and fled Cuba in April 1980; and

WHEREAS, he established his family in Orlando and along with his wife, began the pursuit of owning their own retail jewelry store. Together, they spent 10 years building clientele and business relationships, eventually opening Sergio's Fine Jewelry in 1990 on Semoran Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, the family-owned jewelry store has been a staple in the community for 27 years in the same location and in 2000, Sergio purchased the shopping center where the store is located with the vision of renovating the building and also as a means of giving back to the community that has embraced him for so many years; and

WHEREAS, after 37 years of residing in Central Florida and seeing the changes to the area and the creation of the Gateway Orlando District, he plans on renovating the building once again with a focus on designing a building that reflects the City of Orlando's vision of the gateway to our beautiful city and our community; and

WHEREAS, today we celebrate with Sergio Julian Ramos, the citizens that he has served and all that he has achieved, along with his family;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Buddy Dyer, Mayor of the City of Orlando, and Tony Ortiz, District 2 City Commissioner, hereby do proclaim July 10, 2017, as

"Sergio Julian Ramos Day"

in the City of Orlando.