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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, A paletero is a beloved sight within the Latino community, serving a frozen treat staple during the hot summer days; and

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WHEREAS, The paletero pushes a mobile cart, typically the size of a wheelbarrow, throughout residential areas and parks, garnering the attention of those in the area through bells on their carts; and

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WHEREAS, Paleteros serve a variety of paletas, a frozen treat made of natural and cultural flavors, typically with fresh fruit; the word paleta refers to the stick on which the treat is found, and the treat mimics the shape of a popsicle; and

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WHEREAS, Common paleta flavors include maracuya (passion fruit) filled with condensed milk, watermelon (also known as sandía), hibiscus flower (jamaica), rice pudding (arroz con leche), milk caramel (cajeta), and mamey (a tropical tree fruit), just to name a few; and

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WHEREAS, Michoacan in Mexico is considered the birthplace of paletas, which were first introduced in the 1930s; Rafael Malfavon, a Michoacan native, would distribute his paletas

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1 using a herd of donkeys with wooden crates, which made him one
2 of the first paleteros; and

3 WHEREAS, The paleteros job is physically taxing as they
4 spend all day in the sun, oftentimes walking between five and
5 10 miles a day to serve paletas to the community; the paleteros
6 carts can weigh over 200 pounds once filled, and the dry ice
7 used within the carts can burn your arms and hands if not
8 careful; and

9 WHEREAS, The paleteros spend much time within their
10 communities; they learn familiar faces and build relationships
11 with those in the area; many people will see their paleteros a
12 few times a week, making them a key contributor to the
13 neighborhood and local economy; and

14 WHEREAS, Paleteros take pride in understanding the needs
15 of their communities, knowing which paletas are best served
16 where; they are familiar with activities within the
17 neighborhood, including sports games, fairs, and parades and
18 often tailor their goods to the events and their demographics;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Selling paletas has many benefits beyond the
21 bonds formed within a community; by purchasing a paleta, you
22 are supporting a local business, enriching the community's

1 culture, and providing a safe space for paleteros to continue
2 their work; and

3 WHEREAS, Most paleteros work multiple jobs and sell
4 paletas in the summer to make additional money; regularly,
5 they receive the job through recommendations from family and
6 friends within the area; and

7 WHEREAS, Paleteros face many barriers in their work; with
8 an increase of local ordinances making it more difficult for
9 paleteros to acquire permits, it is evident that these
10 communities mourn the absence of their once beloved local
11 paletero; and

12 WHEREAS, Paleteros are at higher risk of being robbed and
13 harassed by residents; with many paleteros only taking cash
14 and with an increase of unwelcoming experiences from
15 residents, they are left vulnerable to attacks and having to
16 relocate to safer areas; and

17 WHEREAS, Paleteros flourish within Latino-based
18 communities across Illinois, including many Chicagoland
19 neighborhoods, such as Cicero, Melrose Park, and Berwyn, and
20 extend into the suburbs within Kane County, including Aurora
21 and Joliet, and downstate with the Quad Cities and Fairmount
22 City; and

1 WHEREAS, For generations, paleteros have been bringing
2 much joy to the children and residents of the communities they
3 serve; they are a staple in a local economy and an inspiration
4 to those who aspire to become small business owners; while
5 their hard work and dedication to the paleta profession often
6 goes unnoticed, it is essential that we continue to fight for
7 them to have a safe space within our neighborhoods; therefore,
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May 3, 2023
11 as "Paleteros Day" in the State of Illinois.