

CITY OF WINTER PARK proclamation

Ricardo Soto-Lopez Day | September 19, 2026

WHEREAS, Ricardo “Rick” Soto-Lopez served the City of Winter Park’s Community Redevelopment Agency under the Planning Department, dedicating his career to advancing affordable housing in the Hannibal Square community; and

WHEREAS, Soto-Lopez led the Canton Park Development Committee, bringing together Westside residents, city employees and legal counsel to establish the committee’s Housing and Governance components, laying the groundwork for the redevelopment of Canton Park into 10 affordable homes; and

WHEREAS, he introduced the committee to the Community Land Trust model as a path to sustainable, lasting homeownership, and brought Norman Jean Sawyer, Executive Director of the Key West Community Land Trust, Florida’s first community land trust, to share her expertise with the community; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance, committee members traveled to conferences to further their understanding of the Land Trust model, and went on to secure approval from the Planning & Zoning Board and City Commission to redevelop Canton Park for low- to moderate-income families; and

WHEREAS, this work culminated in the founding and 2004 incorporation of the Hannibal Square Community Land Trust, Inc., a lasting institution born from his vision and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Soto-Lopez collaborated closely with local builders and furniture retailers to construct and stage each home, all of which sold and remain occupied to this day; and

WHEREAS, the Hannibal Square Community Land Trust has since grown to provide 21 homes, including a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, a legacy made possible by his early guidance and commitment; and

WHEREAS, Ricardo Soto-Lopez was a dedicated public servant whose leadership and hard work transformed the vision of affordable homeownership in Hannibal Square into a lasting reality for the Winter Park community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sheila DeCiccio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Winter Park, in the state of Florida, do hereby proclaim **Saturday, September 19, 2026**, as “**Ricardo Soto-Lopez Day**” in Winter Park, Florida in his honor.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Winter Park, Florida to be affixed this 8th day of September 2026.

Sheila DeCiccio
Mayor