

City of Laguna Niguel



Proclamation

Celebrating

Cyrus the Great/World's First Charter of Human Rights

Whereas, Cyrus the Great founded the Achaemenian Persian Empire and was the first visionary ruler to govern through secularism, which granted religious freedom to all people in his vast empire, stretching over three continents; and

Whereas, Cyrus the Great is credited for the first declaration of human rights in the history of humankind, providing unity and equality to people from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions; and

Whereas, Cyrus the Great developed the first known model of centralized, bureaucratic government, a robust infrastructure system, the development of a road and postal system, and the use of an official language across all territories; and

Whereas, in 539 B.C., following his conquest of Babylon, Cyrus the Great freed the slaves, and declared that all people had the right to choose their religion, and established racial equality; and

Whereas, these decrees were recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder, now considered the world's first charter of human rights, and is widely accredited as the basis of the Magna Carta, the U.S. Constitution, and the U.S. Bill of Rights; and,

Whereas, the Cyrus Cylinder has now been translated into all six official languages of the United Nations, and the cylinder's provisions parallel the first four Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Now Therefore, I, Mayor Fred Minagar, on behalf of the Laguna Niguel City Council, do hereby declare October 29th Cyrus the Great Day and encourage all residents to celebrate Cyrus the Great's contributions to human rights.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Minagar'.

Fred Minagar, Mayor

Office of the Mayor