

Township of Nutley

County of Essex, New Jersey

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Hereby Issue this Proclamation on December 17, 2019

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1967 Al and Rose Bissell opened Bissell's Food Market at 632 Passaic Avenue, Nutley New Jersey which was later renamed Agostino's Market under Rocco & Barbara Agostino; and

WHEREAS, Agostino's Market has been a staple in Nutley for over 52 years providing many local Nutley residents with food market goods; and

WHEREAS, much of the food supplies and merchandise sold at Agostino's Market was distributed by Filligree Foods in Totowa, New Jersey and picked up by Rocky in his delivery truck; and

WHEREAS, a few of the first items available at Agostino's Market were cold cuts, milk, soda, fresh vegetables, bread, canned goods and paper products; and

WHEREAS, Rocco Agostino was also a butcher by trade and provided fresh cut meat for his customers; and

WHEREAS, the vegetables sold at Agostino's were supplied fresh from Newark Farmers Market and the bread from Zinicola's Bakery on King Street, Nutley; and

WHEREAS, Tuscan Dairy delivered milk daily in original glass deposit bottles as did many of the soda products such as Pepsi, Coke, 7-Up and Vigor; and

WHEREAS, in 1970 Agostino's Market added fresh coffee, greeting cards, magazines, newspapers, T&W Ice Cream, Easter Flowers and Christmas Wreaths to the items sold; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980's the store expanded into the back of the building, which was a Barber Shop called Tom the Barber and was used for additional storage, office space, and an original refrigerator built by Fink Brothers of Newark, New Jersey which is still in use today; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990's New Jersey Lottery was added, no machine at first, just paper tickets and scratch offs, later the Green Machine was put into service; and

WHEREAS, in the 2000's, the store continued to increase its services by staying open 7 days a week, to sell the Sunday papers such as the Star Ledger, New York Times, New York Post, Herald News, Bergen Record and the New York Daily News; and

WHEREAS, Agostino's Market provided residents in the area with home delivery service by way of Rocky's truck or neighborhood kids who would walk or bicycle the goods to each home; and

WHEREAS, Agostino's continued to be a neighborhood staple where many friends gathered to enjoy a great cup of coffee, the morning paper and some good conversation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Nutley, County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby congratulates the Agostino Family for exceptional service to their customers and the Nutley community and commends them for the many years of hard work and dedication to our Township.

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WHEREAS, in 1953 a group of Nutley residents formed the Columbus Civic Club of Nutley as a way to develop Italian-American pride in the Nutley community; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Civic Club of Nutley operated in Nutley until 1958 when it applied for National membership to the UNICO National organization;

WHEREAS, the signature page of the original UNICO National Charter application was signed on August 12, 1959 by the membership of the Columbus Civic Club of Nutley; and

WHEREAS, Nutley UNICO was officially chartered on October 10, 1959 as part of the UNICO National organization, which is the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Nutley UNICO is comprised of individuals of Italian ancestry who are committed to preserving Italian heritage and ethnicity and providing a better quality of life for those in need on a community and national level; and

WHEREAS, Nutley UNICO is one of the largest chapters in the nation and in 2002 was recognized by UNICO National as the Model Chapter in the nation.

WHEREAS, Nutley UNICO's motto is "Service above Self"; and

WHEREAS, Nutley UNICO donates on a yearly basis over \$30,000 in scholarship to Nutley students seeking post-secondary education careers; and

WHEREAS, Nutley UNICO contributes more than \$15,000 to a variety of national and local charities and causes. A few of these causes include, MS Research, Autism Awareness, Prostate Cancer Research, Special Young Adults, Nutley Public Library, Thriving Survivors, the Jimmy V Fund, Cooley's Anemia just to note a few; and

WHEREAS, Nutley UNICO has also made a major commitment to education in the form of support for Italian Studies chairs at various universities, most notably Seton Hall, Montclair State and Stony Brook University; and

WHEREAS, throughout the last 60 years, UNICO National has recognized the Nutley Chapter for its many contributions and donations to the National Earthquake Relief Fund in Italy, Twin Towers 9-11 Fund and UNICO National Scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Nutley UNICO has instilled many important values and beliefs in its members over the years, helping them to become honorable citizens and prominent professionals; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday October 10, 2019, Nutley UNICO hosted its 60th Anniversary Dinner commemorating 60 years of service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Nutley, County of Essex, State of New Jersey applaud Nutley UNICO for 60 years of community involvement, commitment to promoting the Italian-American heritage and culture and for being a positive influence in the Nutley community.

