



CITY OF CHICAGO



JESSIE FUENTES  
ALDERPERSON, 26TH WARD

**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ALDER FUENTES TO HOST PRESS CONFERENCE FOR HONORARY STREET SIGNS  
FOR VICTIMS OF 1977 DIVISION STREET RIOTS**

**CHICAGO, IL** – Alderperson Jessie Fuentes will be joined by community members for a **press conference on Thursday, June 11 at 1:30 PM regarding the unveiling of the streets named in honor of Rafael Cruz and Julio Osorio.** The press conference will take place in Humboldt Park at the parkside corner of California Avenue and Evergreen Avenue.

On June 4, 1977, two young Puerto Rican men, Rafael Cruz and Julio Osorio, were brutally shot down by the Chicago Police in Humboldt Park between the tennis courts and Luis Muñoz Marín Drive. In response to the police brutality, the community engaged in an uprising. The 1977 Puerto Rican uprising, commonly known as the 1977 Division Street Riots, cemented the long-held frustrations about the housing, jobs, healthcare, and education discrimination experienced by many Puerto Ricans. Community members organized, envisioned new realities, and strengthened solidarities with other oppressed communities.

Nearly fifty years later, the community is honoring Rafael and Julio with a street naming. California Avenue from Evergreen Avenue to Hirsch Street will be named Rafael Cruz Way. California Avenue from Evergreen Avenue to Potomac Avenue will be named Julio Osorio Way. Family members and community will be joining Alderperson Fuentes to reveal the new signs.

Following the press conference, Alderperson Fuentes will join a panel ahead of a showing of the “Humboldt Park Riots” documentary as part of Fiestas Patronales. The panel will begin at 7:15 PM and the documentary will show at 8:00 PM, in Humboldt Park. Events are free.

**WHAT:** Press conference with local elected official, community members, and family members of those honored

**WHERE:** Southwest corner (park side) of California Avenue and Evergreen Avenue

**WHEN:** TOMORROW, Thursday, June 11, 2026

**TIME:** 1:30 PM

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**CRUZ FAMILY CONTACT:** Javier Vargas, 773-407-5441

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