

City of Boston

IN

CITY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ED FLYNN

- WHEREAS:** Lech Wałęsa was the President of Poland from 1990 to 1995, and was the first democratically elected President of Poland since 1926, and was first ever Polish President elected by popular vote; *and*
- WHEREAS:** President Wałęsa was an electrician at a shipyard, and later became a prominent union activist fighting for workers' rights, as he risked his safety and freedom in order to organize workers to form free non-communist trade unions; *and*
- WHEREAS:** President Wałęsa was instrumental in negotiating the Gdansk Agreement of 1980 with the Polish government after leading the the Gdansk shipyard strike that gave rise to a wave of countrywide strikes, and the Gdansk Agreement gave workers the right to strike and to organize independent unions; *and*
- WHEREAS:** He was elected as the Solidarity Chairman at the First National Solidarity Congress in Gdansk in 1981, but President Wałęsa was placed under house arrest after martial law was imposed that same year, when he was released in 1982 and was placed under surveillance, he still maintained contact with Solidarity leaders in the underground; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In 1983, President Wałęsa received the Nobel Peace Prize, and through negotiations with the government, it led to parliamentary elections and the establishment of a non-communist government, and Wałęsa was elected President of Poland in 1990; *and be it*
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, recognizes President Wałęsa for his contributions to his country and the world, and recognizes May 16th as "President Lech Walesa Day" in the City of Boston.

By: Edward M. Flynn
President of the City Council

Attest: Alex Goulet
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: Edward M. Flynn

Date: May 16, 2022,