

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG

CITY OF NEW YORK

PROCLAMATION

Whereas: As a Congressman, an activist, a veteran, one of our most beloved Mayors, and a first-generation American who realized the full promise of our nation's immigrant experience, Fiorello LaGuardia's life reflected New Yorkers' highest shared values—and today, we are proud to celebrate the 125th anniversary of his birth. Early in his career, LaGuardia served as a translator at Ellis Island, speaking Croatian, Italian, and German—a fitting job for the future mayor of our international city. Later, as a Congressman, he worked passionately to meet the needs of his New York constituents and all Americans. He fought to encourage immigration, improve conditions for workers, and combat racism. And our nightlife industry might love him most for his work to repeal Prohibition.

Whereas: LaGuardia then moved on to his most memorable role, as the leader of our municipal government. The United States' first Italian-American mayor (with a Jewish mother, I might add), he unified our world-famous rapid transit system. He presided over the construction of our city's first municipal airport, which now bears his name. Working with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, he brought countless public works projects to our city, including parks, housing, bridges, schools, and hospitals. Above all, he gave his concern and warmth to all New Yorkers, most memorably when he read the comics over the radio during the 1945 newspaper strike. On a personal note, Mayor LaGuardia paved the way for future mayors who, height notwithstanding, wished to stand tall in public service.

Whereas: Today, we can see Fiorello LaGuardia's legacy everywhere—not only when we look at the housing, educational institutions, airport, hospital, and more that bear his name—including the Broadway musical *Fiorello!*— but also as we undertake efforts such as PlaNYC, which will ensure that the New York of tomorrow is greener and greater than the city we love today. More than any physical structure, New Yorkers' shared desire to pull together and build a better future proves that this great leader's spirit is alive and well throughout the five boroughs and beyond.

Now therefore, I, Michael R. Bloomberg, in recognition of this important anniversary, do hereby proclaim **Tuesday, December 11th, 2007 in the City of New York as:**

“Fiorello LaGuardia Day”