



Proclamation

Whereas, in 2014, Adriana Leon, a Springs resident, and Louise Bergerson, an Amagansett resident, realized there was a critical need for the Latino community to have the time and space to practice English and communication skills; and

Whereas, Adriana introduced Louise to Pastor Oswaldo Palomo of Vida Abundante, New York, who offered them the use of the classrooms at the Living Water Church in Wainscott and “Aprendiendo Ingles Ahora” was born, a program offering weekly, evening E.S.L. volunteer-led classes to working Latinos; and

Whereas, the program was an instant success with over 50 students, and by 2018 the classes had expanded to over 120 students and 12 volunteers, exceeding the capacity of the Living Water Church and prompting a move to St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in East Hampton; and

Whereas, every year there was an extensive waitlist of 40 or more students and in 2021, Louise and Adriana, along with a Board of Directors, created a plan to move forward by establishing a 501(c)(3) organization, a status they achieved in February 2022, and rebranding the group, now known as Ruta27; and

Whereas, throughout 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic, the volunteers and students faced difficulties but continued offering classes by switching to remote options; and

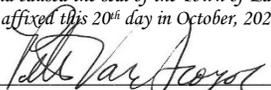
Whereas, Ruta27 officially moved to East Hampton High School in September of 2022 and now offers seven levels of language proficiency, ranging from basic to fluent, with a staff of 15 volunteers from all backgrounds, ages, and skill levels; therefore be it

Proclaimed, that the Town of East Hampton does hereby recognize and congratulate

Adriana Leon and Louise Bergerson

For creating Ruta27, an invaluable program that will continue to foster better communication and understanding, and empower the East End Latino community for years to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of East Hampton to be affixed this 20th day in October, 2022.


Peter Van Scoyoc, Supervisor
Town of East Hampton, New York