

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250858)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing Kalaya, a Philadelphia culinary gem specializing in Southern Thai culture, cuisine, and hospitality, for being ranked seventh on North America's 50 Best Restaurants list.

WHEREAS, The inaugural North America's 50 Best Restaurants list was released, celebrating culinary excellence across Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States, showcasing the region's diversity, creativity, and innovation in dining; and

WHEREAS, A group of 300 chefs, restaurateurs, journalists, educators and experienced diners anonymously ranked restaurants to highlight the most outstanding restaurants on the continent; and

WHEREAS, The award ceremony took place on September 25, 2025, at Wynn Las Vegas, where the honorees were distinguished with red scarves and recognized for their remarkable contribution to the culinary arts; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia had three restaurants featured on the list, a testament to the City's dynamic culinary landscape and rich cultural fabric. This kind of recognition comes at a pivotal moment, as Philadelphia prepares to take center stage for the nation's Semiquincentennial celebration; and

WHEREAS, Kalaya, a celebrated Thai restaurant renowned for its bold and authentic cuisine achieved national acclaim by ranking seventh on this distinguished list. Its menu, rich with vibrant colors and dynamic flavors, is a reflection of the spirit and tradition of Thai dining at its finest; and

WHEREAS, Kalaya began as a modest 32-seat BYOB in South Philadelphia named in honor of Chef Chutatip Nok Suntaranon's beloved mother. Through Chef Nok's vision, passion, and dedication, the restaurant quickly garnered widespread recognition, leading to its relocation to a larger space in Fishtown; and

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WHEREAS, Under Chef Nok's leadership, Kalaya has become a beacon of culinary excellence. Her achievements include receiving the prestigious James Beard Award, being featured on Netflix's *Chef's Table*, and earning recognition from *Time100* and *Forbes 50 Over 50* for her contributions to the culinary arts; and

WHEREAS, Kalaya's recognition, reflects not only its individual culinary excellence but also highlights Philadelphia's vibrant and world class food scene on both the national and international stage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes Kalaya, a Philadelphia culinary gem specializing in Southern Thai culture, cuisine, and hospitality, for being ranked seventh on North America's Best Restaurants List.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Kalaya as evidence of the sincere sentiments of this legislative body.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the ninth day of October, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Thomas for Council President Johnson

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson Councilmembers, Thomas, Phillips, Gauthier, Landau, Lozada, Brooks, Harrity, O'Neill, Squilla and Ahmad