

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 250859)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing Chef Chutatip Nok Suntaranon of Kalaya Philadelphia for receiving the North America's Best Female Chef Award 2025.

WHEREAS, Chef Chutatip Nok Suntaranon, widely known as Chef Nok, was born in Yan Ta Khao, a district in Trang province in southern Thailand;

WHEREAS, Chef Nok's mother, Kalaya, for whom the restaurant is named, sold homemade curry paste at a local market, instilling in her daughter an early appreciation for colorful produce, fresh seafood, and potent spices that define authentic Thai cuisine; and

WHEREAS, Chef Nok's initially pursued a career as a flight attendant, during which she met her husband, a Wharton School professor, on a flight to New York, leading to Chef Nok's relocation to Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Chef Nok completed her culinary studies at New York's French Culinary Institute and honed her skills working at the Rittenhouse Hotel under Chef Jose Garces; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 50, Chef Nok opened her first restaurant in the Italian Market, a modest 32-seat venue that quickly earned a James Beard Award for Best New Restaurant within its first year, prompting a move to a larger location in Fishtown; and

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

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 250859 continued

WHEREAS, Kalaya ranked seventh on this prestigious list, with a menu celebrated for its vibrant colors and dynamic flavors that embody the spirit and tradition of Thai cuisine; and

WHEREAS, Chef Nok's hard work, passion, and dedication to the culinary arts have been rightfully recognized with this esteemed award; and

WHEREAS, This great City is lucky to count Chef Nok among its culinary leaders, enriching the community with her exceptional talent and cultural heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes Chef Chutatip Nok Suntaranon of Kalaya Philadelphia for receiving the North America's Best Female Chef Award 2025.

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

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 250859 continued

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, Brooks, Harrity, O'Neill, Squilla and Ahmad