

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Spain.

WHEREAS, Hispanic heritage was first observed in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson;

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Week was expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan on August 17, 1988;

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>;

WHEREAS, September 15<sup>th</sup> is significant because it is the anniversary of the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua;

WHEREAS, September 16<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup> are significant because Mexico and Chile celebrate Independence Day, respectively;

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month extends to October because October 12<sup>th</sup> is Día de la Raza;

WHEREAS, Many Hispanic Americans are the decedents of the Arawaks (Puerto Rico), the Aztecs (Mexico), the Incas (South America), the Maya (Central America), and the Tainos (in Cuba, Puerto Rico and other places), and Africa and Spain;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) was established in 1976 by the Council as a key component of the "Latino Community Development Act", D.C. Law 1-86 and consequently strengthened the relationship between the community and the Mayor, the Council, District government agencies, private businesses, and community-based organizations;

48 WHEREAS, Pedro Casanave was a Spanish merchant who became the fifth mayor of  
49 Georgetown (modern-day D.C.);  
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51 WHEREAS, Many notable Hispanic Americans include Franklin R. Chang-Díaz (Costa  
52 Rican American, Astronaut), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Cuban American, Congresswoman),  
53 Fernando Bujones (Cuban American, Ballet Dancer), Ana Sol Guitierrez (Salvadoran American,  
54 Maryland State Delegate), Christy Turlington (Salvadoran American, Model), Francisco Rubio  
55 (Salvadoran American, Astronaut), Raul Diaz Arce (Salvadoran American, Soccer Player),  
56 Nancy Lopez (Mexican American, Professional Golfer), Ellen Ochoa (Mexican American,  
57 Astronaut), Sandra Cisneros (Mexican American, Author), Lin Manuel Miranda (Puerto Rican  
58 American, Playwright), Sonia Sotomayor (Puerto Rican American, Supreme Court Justice,), and  
59 Jose Andres (Spanish American, Chef);  
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61 WHEREAS, Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on the United States  
62 and the District through centuries-old traditions and customs that are embraced and valued in the  
63 District;  
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65 WHEREAS, President Obama signed an Executive Order in 2012 called the Deferred  
66 Action for Childhood Arrivals to provide legal status for undocumented young children who  
67 arrived into the United States;  
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69 WHEREAS, Washington, D.C. will not be complicit in the inhumane practice of  
70 detaining migrant children in warehouses or the separation of families;  
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72 WHEREAS, in Washington, D.C. the Salvadoran community is the majority foreign-born  
73 population and continues to contribute to the revitalization of the District; and  
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75 WHEREAS, A significant number of the District’s Salvadoran community members have  
76 Temporary Protected Status, a humanitarian program that has been canceled and are in urgent  
77 need for support and resources from the District;  
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79 WHEREAS, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients are referred to as  
80 “Dreamers” and many of them reside in and make significant contributions to the District; and  
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82 WHEREAS, Many Hispanic in the District are Dreamers and are in urgent need for the  
83 District to support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.  
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85 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF  
86 COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Hispanic Heritage Month Recognition  
87 Resolution of 2019”.

88 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the exceptional contribution  
89 of Hispanic residents during Hispanic Heritage Month.  
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91 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
92 the District of Columbia Register.