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Councilmember Brandon T. Todd



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Elissa Silverman

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 15th to October 15th;

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

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

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

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

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

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51 WHEREAS, Pedro Casanave was a Spanish merchant who became the fifth mayor of
52 Georgetown (modern-day D.C.);

53
54 WHEREAS, Many notable Hispanic Americans include Franklin R. Chang-Díaz (Costa
55 Rican American, Astronaut), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Cuban American, Congresswoman),
56 Fernando Bujones (Cuban American, Ballet Dancer), Ana Sol Guitierrez (Salvadoran American,
57 Maryland State Delegate), Christy Turlington (Salvadoran American, Model), Francisco Rubio
58 (Salvadoran American, Astronaut), Raul Diaz Arce (Salvadoran American, Soccer Player),
59 Nancy Lopez (Mexican American, Professional Golfer), Ellen Ochoa (Mexican American,
60 Astronaut), Sandra Cisneros (Mexican American, Author), Lin Manuel Miranda (Puerto Rican
61 American, Playwright), Sonia Sotomayor (Puerto Rican American, Supreme Court Justice,), and
62 Jose Andres (Spanish American, Chef);

63
64 WHEREAS, Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on the United States
65 and the District through centuries-old traditions and customs that are embraced and valued in the
66 District;

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68 WHEREAS, President Obama signed an Executive Order in 2012 called the Deferred
69 Action for Childhood Arrivals to provide legal status for undocumented young children who
70 arrived into the United States;

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72 WHEREAS, Washington, D.C. will not be complicit in the inhumane practice of
73 detaining migrant children in warehouses or the separation of families;

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75 WHEREAS, in Washington, D.C. the Salvadoran community is the majority foreign-born
76 population and continues to contribute to the revitalization of the District; and

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78 WHEREAS, A significant number of the District’s Salvadoran community members have
79 Temporary Protected Status, a humanitarian program that has been canceled and are in urgent
80 need for support and resources from the District;

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82 WHEREAS, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients are referred to as
83 “Dreamers” and many of them reside in and make significant contributions to the District; and

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85 WHEREAS, Many Hispanic in the District are Dreamers and are in urgent need for the
86 District to support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

88 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF
89 COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Hispanic Heritage Month Recognition
90 Resolution of 2020”.

91 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the exceptional contribution
92 of Hispanic residents during Hispanic Heritage Month.
93

94 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
95 the District of Columbia Register.
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