



Proclamation



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, in 1968, Congress passed Public Law 90-498 establishing National Hispanic Heritage Week; this was observed annually until 1989 when it was expanded to the period of September 15th through October 15th and became National Hispanic Heritage Month, and this has been celebrated annually since then; and

WHEREAS, September 15th was chosen as the starting date because of its significance in Latin American history; it is the date that five Latin American countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua – declared their independence, while Mexico declared its independence on September 16th and Chile on September 18th; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is time to recognize the contributions, and celebrate the achievements, of Hispanics in the United States; it is a time when we acknowledge the vital impact of Hispanic Americans in developing the nation that we know and love; and

WHEREAS, in today's polarized political and cultural climate it is crucial that we take this opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our nation, to be honest in the accounting of our history, to give full credit to all who helped shape the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to U.S. Census Bureau data from 2019, 60.6 million people of Hispanic heritage live in the U.S., constituting 18.5% of the nation's population; and North Carolina is one of twelve states with a population of 1 million or more Hispanic residents; and

WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, a record 32 million Latinos in the United States will be eligible to vote in 2020, up from 27.3 million in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations usually include a variety of public events highlighting Hispanic culture and history; unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of most public events for 2020, but there are still opportunities to share in the experience of this month; for example, in the Triad region, the Hispanic League will present Virtual Fiesta 2020 (<https://www.hispanicleague.org/>), and in Raleigh, El Pueblo will host a series of events, both online and in-person, called ¡Y Sigue La Fiesta! (<https://elpueblo.org/>).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 15th through October 15th, 2020, as **Hispanic Heritage Month** in the Town of Carrboro. I encourage all residents to join in this celebration of Hispanic history and culture, and recognize the many contributions made by Hispanic Americans that have had such a deep and lasting influence on our nation, our state and our community.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor