

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING) RESOLUTION NO. 19-5019
SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15)
LATINX HERITAGE MONTH) Introduced by Councilor Juan Carlos
Gonzalez and Councilor Bob Stacey

WHEREAS, the state of Oregon and the Portland Metropolitan region has been home to people who identify as Latinx from Mexico, Central, South America or Caribbean for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the term “Latinx” is used to avoid reducing the incredible richness of Latin America, which includes, in addition to people of Hispanic descent, those from Portuguese-speaking Brazil, English-speaking Belize, French-speaking Haiti, the African Diaspora and the many indigenous cultures throughout the continent, to the history of a specific colonizer and their language; and

WHEREAS, the “x” on the end of “Latinx” creates a defiantly gender-neutral word that includes those who are gender non-conforming and proudly Latin American; and

WHEREAS, Latinx Heritage Month originated in 1968 as a week-long celebration and was expanded in 1988 to a month-long observation from September 15 through October 15 every year, which holds particular significance because it includes September 15, the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, while Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on September 16 and 18 respectively; and

WHEREAS, Latinxs are among the fastest growing populations in our region and make up twelve percent of the population in the three county metro region; and

WHEREAS, the impact and legacy of individuals from Mexico, Central, South America or Caribbean can be felt throughout the State of Oregon and our region’s cultural and political landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Latinxs in our region help drive our economy as business owners, entrepreneurs and skilled laborers; enrich our academic environment as teachers, professors and engineers; build our region as engineers, planners, architects and members of the trades; contribute to our culture and arts as singers, performers, storytellers and writers; support our agricultural industries as agronomists, skilled farmworkers and nursery people; keep our community safe and thriving as doctors, nurses and other health care professionals; and lead the fight to achieve social and political change as advocates, activists and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, seven percent of Metro’s workforce are employees who identify as Latinx; and

WHEREAS, we take pride in the growing diversity of our community and in the impressive and valuable contributions made by our Latinx residents to our region’s growth, prosperity and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Latinx Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the contributions that Latinxs in the United States have made to society and culture. Celebrating Latinx Heritage month allows us to honor greater Portland's cultural and gender diversity.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council proclaims September 15 through October 15, 2019 Latinx Heritage Month in the Greater Portland region.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 26th day of September 2019.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney