

## STAFF REPORT

### IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-5132, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 15 TO OCTOBER 15 NATIONAL LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

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Date: September 23, 2020  
Department: Council Office  
Meeting Date: October 15, 2020

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#### ISSUE STATEMENT

The Metro Council has an opportunity to stand with residents, community partners and local jurisdictions in our region by adopting Resolution No. 20-5132, in recognizing September 15 to October 15 National Latinx Heritage Month.

#### ACTION REQUESTED

Consideration and vote on Resolution No. 20-5132.

#### IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Advancing the Metro Council's proclamation for National Latinx Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15.

#### POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Council adoption of this resolution will further Metro's commitment to the goals stated in the Strategic Plan to advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, in particular:

- a) Metro meaningfully engages communities of color
- b) Metro hires, trains and promotes a racially diverse workforce
- c) Metro creates safe and welcoming programs, spaces and destinations

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Metro Council adopt Resolution No. 20-5132.

#### STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

##### 1. Known Opposition/support/community feedback

No opposition known at this time.

##### 2. Legal Antecedents

None. This is the first year that the Metro Council is considering adoption of this resolution.

##### 3. Anticipated effects

None.

##### 4. Financial implications

None.

## **BACKGROUND**

Latinx culture has been integrated in the Northwest experience for more than 400 years. Larger migration patterns from Mexico in particular began in the 20th century. Since then, the story of the Latinx community in Oregon has been defined by community building, settlement and opportunity, often in the face of racism, scapegoating and the threat of deportation. In the twenty-first century, according to Census data, the Latinx population in Oregon quadrupled between 1990 and 2010. In the most recent Census reporting, the Latinx community makes up twelve percent of the three county Metro region and represent the largest minority group in the state.

The Latinx community is increasingly reflected in the greater Portland region's leadership in government, business and community organizations and seven percent of Metro's own workforce identify as Latinx. This proclamation is intended to highlight the tremendous contributions made by the Latinx community, past and present, to the greater Portland region, even while acknowledging the systemic barriers to advancement that persist. These barriers are further responsible for the severely negative impacts the Latinx community is experiencing as a result of the on-going global pandemic.

The Latinx Heritage month celebration originated when President Reagan expanded a week long Hispanic Heritage month celebration to a month long observation from September 15 through October 15.

The timing of this month is meant to recognize both the date of September 15, the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua as well as September 16 and 18, which are when Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence respectively.

While the official government designation for the celebration is Hispanic Heritage Month, Metro is using 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. The "x" on the end of "Latinx" creates a gender-neutral word that includes those who are gender non-conforming and proudly Latin American.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None