

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING)	RESOLUTION NO. 20-5132
SEPTEMBER 15 TO OCTOBER 15 NATIONAL)	Introduced by Deputy Council President
LATINX HERITAGE MONTH)	Juan Carlos Gonzalez

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, 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 farm workers 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, the Latinx community continues to disproportionately experience disparities in health inequality, economic opportunity, housing stability and food security further aggravated by the on-going global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, we take pride in the growing diversity of our community and in the impressive and valuable contributions made by the Latinx community and are committed to taking bold action while working collectively with the Latinx community to remove barriers that are causing many of these disparities; 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 to be National Latinx Heritage Month in Greater Portland.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 15th day of October, 2020.

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

Lynn Peterson, Council President