



CITY OF KIRKLAND
City Manager's Office
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
425-587-3000

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager
David Wolbrecht, Communications Program Manager

Date: August 25, 2022

Subject: NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2022 as National Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by commemorating the histories, cultures, contributions, and influence on American society by those whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. Twenty-three countries consider themselves either Hispanic/Latinx or both.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week as a push to recognize the contributions of the Hispanic/Latinx community had gained momentum throughout the 1960s when the civil rights movement was at its peak and there was a growing awareness of the United States' multicultural identities. That same year President Lyndon Johnson was the first president to recognize this observation and was later expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and 18, respectively.

This proclamation supports Kirkland's Resolution R-5240 declaring Kirkland a safe, inclusive, welcoming community for all people. Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month helps to ensure that diversity and inclusion remain a priority and that we continue to welcome diversity in its many forms and embrace opportunities to showcase diversity in our city. Such celebrations that welcome and showcase diversity also support the City's efforts to dismantle structural racism, as called for in Resolution R-5434. Finally, the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Five-Year Roadmap identifies several actions that can help increase civic participation among Hispanic and Latinx communities.

Accepting the proclamation will be: Gabriela Lopez Vazquez, Human Services Commissioner and King County Promotores Network member; Mercedes Cordova-Hakim, King County Promotores Network Founder and Co-Lead; Debbie Lacy, Founder & Executive Director of Eastside For All; and Antoinette Smith, City of Kirkland Human Services Coordinator.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming September 15 through October 15, 2022 as National Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Kirkland

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures, contributions, and influence on American society whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week as a push to recognize the contributions of the Hispanic/Latinx community had gained momentum throughout the 1960s when the civil rights movement was at its peak and there was a growing awareness of the United States' multicultural identities.

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month commemorates the anniversaries of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, all of which celebrate independence on September 15, while also aligning with the independence days of Mexico and Chile, which celebrate their independence on September 16 and September 18 respectively; and

WHEREAS, according to United States Census population estimates for 2021, Hispanic and Latino community members represent an estimated 7.7 percent of the population in Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, although the Hispanic population makes up close to 19% of the U.S. population, they only account for about 1.5% of the country's elected and appointed officials; and

WHEREAS, concentrated effort is needed to amplify the voices of our Hispanic and Latino population, to increase civic engagement among our Hispanic and Latino community members and encourage their involvement on local boards, commissions and elected bodies; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2017 the Kirkland City Council approved Resolution R-5240 declaring Kirkland a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community for all people and directing the City Manager to engage the community to determine ways for Kirkland to be more safe, inclusive, and welcoming; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2020, the Kirkland City Council approved Resolution R-5434 committing to several actions to examine and dismantle institutional and structural racism in Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2022, the Kirkland City Council adopted a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Five-Year Roadmap which identifies several actions that can help increase civic participation among Hispanic and Latino communities; and

WHEREAS, celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month helps to ensure that diversity and inclusion remains a priority and that we continue to welcome diversity in its many forms and embrace opportunities to showcase diversity in our City;

NOW, THEREFORE, Mayor Penny Sweet, on behalf of the Kirkland City Council, does hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2022 as national Hispanic Heritage Month and encourages the Kirkland Community to join us as we celebrate the important contributions made by Hispanic Americans, Immigrants from Latin America, and the Latino community and recognize and embrace the impact the Hispanic culture has on our lives and in our community.

Signed this 6th day of September 2022,

Penny Sweet, Mayor