



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

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Joy Johnston, Interim Communications Program Manager
David Wolbrecht, Senior Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Date: August 26, 2021

Subject: National Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2021 as National Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was 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 September 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.

Mr. Luis Navarro, Kirkland resident, will be present to accept the proclamation.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming September 15 through October 15, 2021 as National Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Kirkland

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the history, culture and traditions of the Hispanic community and recognizes the countless contributions made by Hispanic Americans to American society; and

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 2020, 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 20% of the U.S. population, they only account for about 1% of the country's elected and appointed officials; and

WHEREAS, concentrated effort is needed to amplify the voices of our Hispanic and Latinx 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, 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, I, Mayor Penny Sweet, on behalf of the Kirkland City Council, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2021 as National Hispanic Heritage Month and encourage 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 7th day of September 2021,

Penny Sweet, Mayor