

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia, Ricardo Arroyo, Kendra Lara, Baker, Breadon, Coletta, Durkan, Flaherty, Louijeune, Murphy, Worrell and Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LATINO HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF BOSTON FROM SEPTEMBER 15 TO OCTOBER 15

- WHEREAS,** Latino Heritage Month began in the United States as a week of observation in 1968, called Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, it was expanded to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The push to recognize the contributions of the Latino community gained momentum throughout the 1960s during the civil rights movement; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The timing of Latino Heritage Month coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of several Latin American nations. September 15 was chosen as the kickoff because it coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of five Central American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Those five nations declared their independence from Spain on September 15, 1821; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Other Latin American countries also declared their independence in September: Mexico declared their independence from Spain on September 16, 1810; Chile declared its independence from Spain on September 18, 1810; and Belize declared its independence from Great Britain on September 21, 1981; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Since the beginning, our country has drawn strength and insights from Latino writers, scientists, soldiers, doctors, entrepreneurs, academics, and leaders in labor and government. Our culture has been enriched by the rhythms, art, literature, and creativity of Latino peoples; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In Boston, Latinos have led the population growth since 1980, with a 256% increase in population, and now make up 20% of the city. While Boston's Latino share is smaller than other Massachusetts cities and towns, Boston has the largest total number of Latino residents, at just over 130,000; *and*

WHEREAS, Latinos are a growing share of Boston’s workforce. They are increasingly contributing to Boston’s economy as business owners and entrepreneurs, and they boost our local economy as workers and entrepreneurs; *and*

WHEREAS, Latino Heritage Month reminds us that the American identity is a fabric of diverse traditions and stories woven together. During Latino Heritage Month, we reaffirm that diversity is one of our city’s greatest strengths. We also acknowledge the Latino leaders who have stayed in the struggle for equal justice to ensure that everyone in this city can contribute their talents and have the opportunity to thrive; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the City of Boston recognizes Latino Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15.

Filed in Council: September 13, 2023