

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1968, Hispanic Heritage Month was originally observed as "Hispanic Heritage Week" to recognize the immense contributions, inspiring histories, and vibrant cultures of Hispanic and Latinx communities; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the recognition changed to a monthlong commemoration spanning September 15 through October 15 to coincide with independence day celebrations of several Latin American nations; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to acknowledge that Hispanic and Latinx communities are an integral part of the beautiful diversity, history, and culture of Olympia; and their many achievements embody the American experience and have made transformative impacts in areas such as arts, government, agriculture, education, civil rights, science, and technology; and

WHEREAS, while we celebrate the achievements and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx community that enrich our history, society and culture, we must also acknowledge the structural discrimination and injustice that these communities have faced for generations through the present day; and

WHEREAS, many Hispanic and Latinx people trace their roots to the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, including the Arawaks, the Aztecs, the Incas, the Maya, and the Tainos. Some trace their roots to the Spanish explorers, or to the Africans who were brought enslaved to the New World; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latinx ancestries are vastly diverse, including Mexican, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Cuban, Dominican, Guatemalan, Colombian, Spaniard, Brazilian, Ecuadorian, Peruvian, Venezuelan, Nicaraguan, Argentinean, Panamanian, Costa Rican, Chilean, Bolivian, Uruguayan, Paraguayan, and other South American and Central American countries; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Hispanic and Latinx populations reached 65.2 million in 2023 in the United States, making these populations the largest racial or ethnic minority in the U.S., and these populations in Thurston County are increasing, growing from 5 percent in 2000 to 10 percent in 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is now even more essential that local and state governments re-affirm their commitment to supporting Hispanic and Latinx communities through policy, advocacy, recognition, community partnerships, and access; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is honored to partner with Ultimano Comms Plus to host Lula Fest, a community celebration of Hispanic and Latinx cultures with the vision - "Ser audaces al celebrar el pasado cultural, para construir un futuro mejor / Be bold in celebrating the cultural past, in order to build a better future" to be held September 28, 2024 in downtown Olympia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia and

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympia City Council
does hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2024 as***

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

***in the City of Olympia and re-affirms the City's commitment to supporting
and standing with Hispanic and Latinx community members, and encourage all
Olympians to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and
contributions of these communities to our country, our state and our city.***

***SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 17th DAY
OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.***

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Dontae Payne
Mayor***