

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month was originally established in 1968 as “Hispanic Heritage Week” to recognize the rich contributions, inspiring histories, and vibrant cultures of Hispanic and Latinx communities; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the observance expanded to a monthlong celebration from September 15 through October 15, coinciding with independence day celebrations of various Latin American nations; and

WHEREAS, the histories of many Hispanic and Latinx people are intricately linked to indigenous cultures of the Americas, as well as diverse ancestries including African, Spanish, and Caribbean roots; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic and Latinx population has grown significantly, constituting the largest racial or ethnic minority in the United States and steadily increasing in Thurston County; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latinx communities significantly contribute to Olympia’s diverse tapestry and have profoundly shaped American society through achievements in arts, government, agriculture, education, civil rights, science, technology, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, despite these invaluable contributions, Hispanic and Latinx communities nationwide and within Olympia continue to face harmful legislative efforts, discrimination, and systemic injustice targeting their identities, livelihoods, and rights; and

WHEREAS, Olympia proudly stands as a Sanctuary City committed to protecting the safety, dignity, and human rights of all individuals regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia reaffirms its dedication to policies and practices that protect accessibility to City services and foster inclusivity, equity, and belonging; recognizing that the safety and well-being of Hispanic and Latinx communities are vital to our city's strength; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is honored to partner in community celebrations, including Lula Fest, which boldly affirms Hispanic and Latinx heritage, representation, and visibility at a critical time of civil uprising, combating efforts to minimize and erase Latinx voices, fostering unity, collective strength, resilience, and community healing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympia City Council hereby proclaims September 15 through October 15, 2025, as

HISPANIC / LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

in Olympia, reaffirming our commitment to stand with and support Hispanic and Latinx community members. We encourage all Olympians to join in celebrating the contributions, resilience, and cultural heritage of Hispanic and Latinx communities to our city, state, and nation.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, THIS 9th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Dontae Payne
Mayor***