

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING ) RESOLUTION NO. 19-5019  
SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15 )  
LATINX HERITAGE MONTH ) Introduced by Councilor Juan Carlos  
Gonzalez and Councilor Bob Stacey

WHEREAS, the state of Oregon and the Portland Metropolitan region has been home to people who identify as Latinx from Mexico, Central, South America or Caribbean for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the term “Latinx” is used to avoid reducing the incredible richness of Latin America, which includes, in addition to people of Hispanic descent, those from Portuguese-speaking Brazil, English-speaking Belize, French-speaking Haiti, the African Diaspora and the many indigenous cultures throughout the continent, to the history of a specific colonizer and their language; and

WHEREAS, the “x” on the end of “Latinx” creates a defiantly gender-neutral word that includes those who are gender non-conforming and proudly Latin American; and

WHEREAS, Latinx Heritage Month originated in 1968 as a week-long celebration and was expanded in 1988 to a month-long observation from September 15 through October 15 every year, which holds particular significance because it includes September 15, the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, while Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on September 16 and 18 respectively; and

WHEREAS, Latinxs are among the fastest growing populations in our region and make up twelve percent of the population in the three county metro region; and

WHEREAS, the impact and legacy of individuals from Mexico, Central, South America or Caribbean can be felt throughout the State of Oregon and our region’s cultural and political landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Latinxs in our region help drive our economy as business owners, entrepreneurs and skilled laborers; enrich our academic environment as teachers, professors and engineers; build our region as engineers, planners, architects and members of the trades; contribute to our culture and arts as singers, performers, storytellers and writers; support our agricultural industries as agronomists, skilled farmworkers and nursery people; keep our community safe and thriving as doctors, nurses and other health care professionals; and lead the fight to achieve social and political change as advocates, activists and elected officials; and


WHEREAS, seven percent of Metro’s workforce are employees who identify as Latinx; and

WHEREAS, we take pride in the growing diversity of our community and in the impressive and valuable contributions made by our Latinx residents to our region’s growth, prosperity and well-being; and


WHEREAS, Latinx Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the contributions that Latinxs in the United States have made to society and culture. Celebrating Latinx Heritage month allows us to honor greater Portland's cultural and gender diversity.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council proclaims September 15 through October 15, 2019 Latinx Heritage Month in the Greater Portland region.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019.

  
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Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

  
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Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

ANTE DEL CONSEJO DE METRO

CON EL PROPÓSITO DE PROCLAMAR EL ) RESOLUCION NO. 19-5019  
PERIODO DEL 15 DE SEPTIEMBRE AL 15 DE )  
OCTUBRE COMO EL MES DE LA HERENCIA ) Presentado por el concejal Juan Carlos  
LATINX González y el concejal Bob Stacey

POR CUANTO, el estado de Oregon y la Región Metropolitana de Portland han albergado a personas que se identifican como Latinx de México, América Central, América del Sur o el Caribe durante más de 100 años; y

POR CUANTO, el término "Latinx" se utiliza para evitar reducir la increíble riqueza de América Latina a la historia de un colonizador específico y su idioma, y que incluye, además de las personas de ascendencia hispana, las de Brasil de habla portuguesa, Belice de habla inglesa, Haití de habla francesa, la diáspora africana y las muchas culturas indígenas en todo el continente; y

POR CUANTO, la "x" al final de "Latinx" crea una palabra desafiante de género neutral que incluye a aquellos no conformes con su género y que son orgullosamente latinoamericanos; y

POR CUANTO, el Mes del Patrimonio Latinx se originó en 1968 como una celebración de una semana y se expandió en 1988 a una observación de un mes desde el 15 de septiembre hasta el 15 de octubre de cada año, lo que tiene una importancia particular porque incluye el 15 de septiembre, el aniversario de la independencia de Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua, mientras que México y Chile celebran su independencia el 16 y 18 de septiembre, respectivamente; y

POR CUANTO, los Latinx se encuentran entre las poblaciones de más rápido crecimiento en nuestra región y representan el doce por ciento de la población en la región metropolitana de los tres condados; y

POR CUANTO, el impacto y el legado de las personas de México, América Central, América del Sur o el Caribe se puede sentir en todo el Estado de Oregón y en los ambientes culturales y políticos de nuestra región; y

POR CUANTO, Latinxs en nuestra región ayudan a impulsar nuestra economía como dueños de negocios, empresarios y como trabajadores calificados; enriquecer nuestro entorno académico como profesores, catedráticos e ingenieros; a construir nuestra región como ingenieros, planificadores, arquitectos y miembros de diferentes profesiones; a contribuir a nuestra cultura y artes como cantantes, artistas, narradores y escritores; a apoyar a nuestras industrias agrícolas como agrónomos, trabajadores agrícolas calificados y viveristas; a mantener a nuestra comunidad segura y próspera como médicos, enfermeras y otros profesionales de la salud; y a liderar la lucha para lograr un cambio social y político como defensores, activistas y funcionarios electos; y

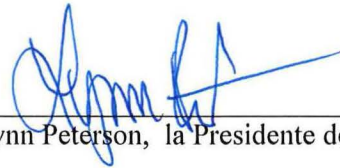
POR CUANTO, el siete por ciento de la fuerza laboral de Metro son empleados que se identifican como Latinx; y

POR CUANTO, nos enorgullecemos de la creciente diversidad de nuestra comunidad y de las impresionantes y valiosas contribuciones hechas por nuestros residentes Latinx al crecimiento, prosperidad y bienestar de nuestra región; y

POR CUANTO, el Mes de la Herencia Latinx celebra y reconoce las contribuciones que los Latinxs en los Estados Unidos han hecho a la sociedad y la cultura. Celebrar el mes de la Herencia Latinx nos permite honrar a la diversidad cultural y de género de la Región Metropolitana de Portland.

QUEDA RESUELTO que el Consejo de Metro proclama el 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre de 2019 Mes del Patrimonio Latinx en la Región Metropolitana de Portland.

ADOPTADO por el Consejo de Metro este 26 de septiembre de 2019.



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Lynn Peterson, la Presidente del Consejo

Aprobada en cuanto a forma:



*para* 

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Carrie MacLaren, Abogada de Metro

## STAFF REPORT

### IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-5019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15 LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

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Date: September 17, 2019  
Department: Council Office  
Meeting Date: September 26, 2019

Prepared by: Beth Cohen,  
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1550  
Presenter: Cassie Salinas

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#### ISSUE STATEMENT

The Metro Council has an opportunity to stand with residents, community partners and local jurisdictions in our region by adopting Resolution No. 19-5019, proclaiming September 15 through October 15 Latinx Heritage Month.

#### ACTION REQUESTED

Consideration and vote on Resolution No. 19-5019.

#### IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Advancing the Metro Council's proclamation for Latinx Heritage month from September 15 through October 15 and joining other jurisdictions in the region in doing so.

#### POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Council adoption of this resolution will further Metro's commitment to the goals stated in the Strategic Plan to advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, in particular:

- a) Metro meaningfully engages communities of color
- b) Metro hires, trains and promotes a racially diverse workforce
- c) Metro creates safe and welcoming programs, spaces and destinations

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Metro Council adopt Resolution No. 19-5019.

#### STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

##### 1. Known Opposition/support/community feedback

No opposition known at this time. Several jurisdictions in the region including the City of Portland, Multnomah County and Washington County have also adopted resolutions proclamations honoring Latinx Heritage month.

##### 2. Legal Antecedents

None. This is the first year that the Metro Council is considering adoption of a resolution honoring Latinx Heritage month.

##### 3. Anticipated effects

The month from September 15 through October 15 will be honored as Latinx Heritage month in the Portland region.

#### **4. Financial implications**

None.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Latinx culture has been integrated in the Northwest experience for more than 400 years. Larger migration patterns from Mexico in particular began in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, the story of the Latinx community in Oregon has been defined by community building, settlement and opportunity, often in the face of racism, scapegoating and the threat of deportation.

In the twenty-first century, according to Census data, the Latinx population in Oregon quadrupled between 1990 and 2010. In the most recent Census reporting, the Latinx community makes up twelve percent of the three county Metro region and represent the largest minority group in the state. The Latinx community is increasingly reflected in the greater Portland region's leadership in government, business and community organizations and seven percent of Metro's own workforce identify as Latinx.

This proclamation is intended to highlight the tremendous contributions made by the Latinx community, past and present, to the greater Portland region, even while acknowledging the systemic barriers to advancement that persist.

The Latinx Heritage month celebration originated when President Reagan expanded a week long Hispanic Heritage month celebration to a month long observation from September 15 through October 15. The timing of this month is meant to recognize both the date of September 15, the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua as well as September 16 and 18, which are when Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence respectively.

While the official government designation for the celebration is Hispanic Heritage Month, Metro is using the term "Latinx" is used to avoid reducing the incredible richness of Latin America, which includes, in addition to people of Hispanic descent, those from Portuguese-speaking Brazil, English-speaking Belize, French-speaking Haiti, the African Diaspora and the many indigenous cultures throughout the continent, to the history of a specific colonizer and their language. The "x" on the end of "Latinx" creates a gender-neutral word that includes those who are gender non-conforming and proudly Latin American.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.