

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, in 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, this celebration was expanded to National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 each year; and

WHEREAS, during this time, America celebrates and recognizes the culture, traditions and contributions of United States residents who trace their roots to Latin America; and

WHEREAS, the Latino population of the United States is 65.2 million as of July 1, 2023, making it the nation's largest racial or ethnic minority — 19.5% of the total population; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is home to over 900,000 Virginians of Latino descent, 11 percent of the population of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is home to more than 29,000 Latinos, 18 percent of the City population which is one of the largest percentages in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, persons of Latino descent enrich our communities by sharing their vibrant culture and heritage; throughout our nation's history, they have made significant contributions to social and economic progress through their leadership in government, business, education, the arts, sciences, and military service; and

WHEREAS, diversity is one of Alexandria's greatest strengths, and it is important to recognize and appreciate the many achievements of persons of Latino descent to our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria will join with the rest of the country in celebrating the 57th National Hispanic Heritage Month by commemorating essential contributions, sacrifices, and accomplishments that Latino people have made to the United States throughout our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, as we build an inclusive community that works for all, we encourage our citizens to participate in the celebrations of National Latino and Hispanic Heritage Month in Alexandria this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the time between September 15th through October 15th, 2025, as:

“NATIONAL LATINO AND HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH”

in the City of Alexandria and encourage all residents to celebrate the significant contributions of Latinos in our nation and city.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 30th day of September 2025.

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk