

**PROCLAMATION**

**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**, between 2010 and 2020, the Latino population in the United States grew by 23 percent, from 50.5 million to 62.1 million; and Latino persons accounted for 51 percent of the entire U.S. population growth during that period; 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; the U.S. Census Bureau expects this number to rise to 26.9% of the country's population by the year 2060; and

**WHEREAS**, as of 2020, the Commonwealth of Virginia is home to over 908,749 Virginians of Latino descent, comprising 10.6 percent of the population of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Alexandria's fastest growing population has been the Latina/o/x cohort, nearly tripling in total size since 1990 from 10,778 to 29,372 people, making up 18% of the City's 2020 total population; 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, science, 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 56<sup>th</sup> 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 Hispanic Heritage Month in Alexandria this month.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the time between September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as:

**“NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE/LATINO 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

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**MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON**  
**On behalf of the City Council**  
**of Alexandria, Virginia**

**ATTEST:**

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**Gloria A. Sitton, CMC**    **City Clerk**