

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is home to over 800,000 Virginians of Latino descent, and has the 15th largest Latino population in the country; and

WHEREAS, more than 25,000 Latinos call Alexandria home, making up 17 percent of the City population and must be properly counted in the 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 Latinos continue to make great strides in public office and civil rights issues supporting the fight for justice and equity for all, successfully advocating for the historic passage of in-state tuition and drivers' privilege cards for all immigrants regardless of citizenship status; and

WHEREAS, Latinos make significant contributions through their leadership in government, protecting freedoms as part of our military, helping feed our community through agriculture, inspiring children as educators, helping fight against the COVID-19 pandemic as healthcare professionals, and advancing society through science and technology; and

WHEREAS, it is in part due to these extraordinary contributions that Latinos have borne a particularly heavy burden during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming number of Latinos who work on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 risk increased exposure to the virus; and

WHEREAS, coupled with generational health disparities, Latinos have faced devastating, disproportionate impacts due to this disease; and

WHEREAS, this Latino Heritage Month, we somberly acknowledge these harms stemming from social and racial inequities and continue our commitment to tackling these disparities during this unprecedented health and economic crisis and beyond; and

WHEREAS, as we continue to fight this pandemic together and look towards a brighter, more equitable future, we also honor the resilience of the Latino community; and

WHEREAS, diversity is one of Alexandria's greatest strengths and the Latino community contributes to that strength every day; and

WHEREAS, understanding, tolerance, and acceptance of the diverse populations living in our communities is especially critical during this era; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria will join with the rest of the country in celebrating the 52nd National Latino 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 virtual and other safe celebrations of Latino heritage 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 15th through October 15th, 2020 as:

“LATINO HERITAGE MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and encourage all residents to celebrate the significant contributions of Latino Americans 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 6th day of October, 2020.*

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk