

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month heritage began as Hispanic Heritage Week, established by legislation sponsored by Rep. Edward Roybal of Los Angeles and was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the commemorative week was expanded to a month—September 15 to October 15—by legislation sponsored by Rep. Esteban Torres, amended by Sen. Paul Simon and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the commemoration because it is the anniversary of the Cry of Dolores, early morning of 16 September 1810, which marked the start of the Mexican War of Independence and thus resulted in independence for the New Spain Colony, now Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, el Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua in 1821; and

WHEREAS, throughout the year and especially during Hispanic Heritage Month, Americans embrace, honor and celebrate the Hispanic community and their traditions and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Orange County has a diverse population and Hispanic residents constitute the largest ethnic group in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic residents in Orange County are a diverse group with roots stretching throughout North, Central, and South America, and many trace their heritage to the original indigenous peoples of Latin America and Africa; and

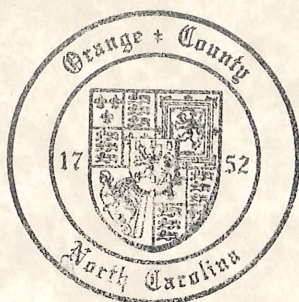
WHEREAS, many Hispanic people came to this country as immigrants and have fought for state and national initiatives providing pathways to citizenship and protecting the right to vote—i.e., Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status holders, farmworkers, and essential workers; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of the United States, members of the Hispanic community have helped shape the social, political, and economic landscape of this Country and our community; and

WHEREAS, in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Hispanic community helped keep our neighborhoods and communities vibrant and prosperous as our front-line workers, teachers, business owners, scientists, soldiers, farmworkers, first responders, artists, activists, colleagues, and friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Orange County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2021, as Hispanic Heritage Month in Orange County, affirming the 2021 theme of “Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope,” and calls upon all residents of Orange County to celebrate this month through activities and programs that enlighten and inspire our understanding of the amazing heritage of our Hispanic families, neighbors and friends.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this the 5th day of October 2021.




Renée A. Price, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners