

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2021-070

Proclaiming September 15 through October 15, 2021, as Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Multnomah County has been home to people who identify as Hispanic, Latino, Latinx, Chicano or indigenous from Mexico, Central or South America for over 100 years. In the 1920 census, 37 Mexicans were listed as living in Multnomah County.
- b. Members of the Latinx community in Multnomah County include people whose families have been here for generations and some of the newest members of our community. Recent census data shows that people of Hispanic origin are among the fastest growing populations in Oregon and are estimated to make up close to 13% percent of Multnomah County's population.
- c. Latinx residents in Multnomah County contribute to our culture and arts as singers, performers and writers. They help drive our small business economy as workers, business owners and entrepreneurs. They enrich our academic environment as teachers, professors and engineers. They are driving social and political change as advocates, activists and elected officials. They ensure our health and community as nurses, doctors, caretakers and childcare workers.
- d. Many jobs and professions that are classified as "frontline workers" during the COVID-19 pandemic contain workforces with large numbers of Latinx people, including but not limited to: medical professionals, teachers, grocery store workers, farmworkers, and other jobs that are critical to a functioning society. In these last eighteen months, our broader community has been held up by the contributions of Latinx essential workers.
- e. The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected the Latinx community in Multnomah County. Latinx residents comprise 13 percent of Multnomah County's population, but have accounted for 20 percent of COVID-19 cases. Additionally, only 46.5% of eligible Latinx individuals are vaccinated, making it the least vaccinated group in Multnomah County compared to other races and ethnicities.
- f. Multnomah County, community-based organizations, and culturally-specific health clinics are working tirelessly to reach this underserved and at-risk population. Efforts to make the COVID-19 vaccine more accessible, for example, translating materials into Spanish, providing incentives to cover the costs of transportation or child care, and setting up vaccine clinics in areas of Portland where undervaccinated populations live,

are all helping to increase rates of vaccination among Latinx people.

- g. Latinx employees make up 10 percent of Multnomah County's workforce. The approximately five hundred Latinx County employees allows us to better serve our community by bringing multilingual and multicultural capacity to our workforce.
- h. Multnomah County takes great pride in the growing diversity of our community and in the impressive and valuable contributions made by our Latinx residents to the County's growth, prosperity and well-being.
- i. Latinx Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the contributions that the Latinx communities in the United States have made to society and culture. This month, we honor the rich heritage of Latinx communities and celebrate their countless achievements.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

- 1. September 15 through October 15, 2021 as Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon, in recognition and celebration of the many contributions of Latinx residents to the County and our community.
- 2. We call upon all residents of Multnomah County to celebrate the history and recognize the contributions of Latinx residents to our community, state, and nation.


ADOPTED this 9th day of September, 2021.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, District 3