

PROCLAMATION

City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County

WHEREAS, the observation of Hispanic Heritage Month started in 1968, 52 years ago, as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and in 1988, Congress and President Ronald Reagan expanded the celebration of the Hispanic presence in the United States of America to a 30-day commemoration; and

WHEREAS, each year from September 15 to October 15, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens, residents, and immigrants of Hispanic origin from Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Spain; and

WHEREAS, September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period; and

WHEREAS, every year, the United States Congress and the White House call for public officials, educators, librarians, and all Americans to observe National Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs; and

WHEREAS, in Mecklenburg County, Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing segment of Mecklenburg County's population. The County is a diverse and enriched community and draws strength from the extraordinary diversity of its people; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte's Patriotic Celebrations and Traditions Committee, Fiestas Patrias, is commemorating National Hispanic Heritage Month for the sixth consecutive year in Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County's character is enhanced by Hispanic Americans and other ethnic groups, all of whom contribute and play a vital role in sustaining the quality of life that we all enjoy; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Mecklenburg County is home to 153,000 Latinos; and

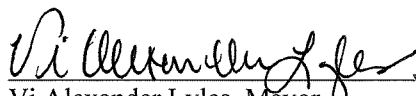
WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte recognizes the extraordinary contributions made to this community by immigrants, residents, and citizens of Latino origin.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of the City of Charlotte, and George Dunlap, Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 15, 2020 through October 15, 2020 as

"HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH"

in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and commend its observance to all citizens.

WITNESS OUR HANDS and the official Seals of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.


Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor
City of Charlotte




George Dunlap, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of
County Commissioners

