

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-409

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 16, 2018

To recognize Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Spain.

WHEREAS, Hispanic heritage was first observed in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson;

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Week was expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan on August 17, 1988;

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15 to October 15;

WHEREAS, September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua;

WHEREAS, September 16 and September 18 are significant because Mexico and Chile celebrate independence day on those dates, respectively;

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month extends to October because October 12 is Día de la Raza;

WHEREAS, many Hispanic Americans are the decedents of the Arawaks (Puerto Rico), the Aztecs (Mexico), the Incas (South America), the Maya (Central America), and the Tainos (in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other places), and of Africa and Spain;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs ("OLA") was established in 1976 by the Council as a key component of the District of Columbia Latino Community Development Act, D.C. Law 1-86, and consequently strengthened the relationship between the community and the Mayor, the Council, District government agencies, private businesses, and community-based organizations;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, Pedro Casanave was a Spanish merchant who became the fifth mayor of Georgetown (modern-day D.C.);

WHEREAS, many notable Hispanic Americans include Franklin R. Chang-Díaz (Costa Rican American, Astronaut), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Cuban American, Congresswoman), Fernando Bujones (Cuban American, Ballet Dancer), Ana Sol Guitierrez (Salvadoran American, Maryland State Delegate), Christy Turlington (Salvadoran American, Model), Francisco Rubio (Salvadoran American, Astronaut), Raul Diaz Arce (Salvadoran American, Soccer Player), Nancy Lopez (Mexican American, Professional Golfer), Ellen Ochoa (Mexican American, Astronaut), Sandra Cisneros (Mexican American, Author), Lin Manuel Miranda (Puerto Rican American, Playwright), Sonia Sotomayor (Puerto Rican American, Supreme Court Justice,), and Jose Andres (Spanish American, Chef);

WHEREAS, Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on the United States and the District through centuries-old traditions and customs that are embraced and valued in the District;

WHEREAS, President Obama signed an Executive Order in 2012 called the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals to provide legal status for undocumented young children who arrived into the United States;

WHEREAS, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients are referred to as “Dreamers” and many of them reside in and make significant contributions to the District; and

WHEREAS, many Hispanics in the District are Dreamers and are in urgent need for the District to support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Hispanic Heritage Month Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the exceptional contribution of Hispanic residents during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.