

Proclamation

Board of Commissioners for Washington County

A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, each year, the United States observes National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the culture, heritage and countless contributions of those whose ancestors were indigenous to North America as well as those who came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America; and

WHEREAS, what began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson was expanded by President Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15; and

WHEREAS, the date 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. Additionally, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "*Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope*," encourages us to reflect on the legacy of Hispanic people who have influenced our nation's history and serve today as leaders in all aspects of our national life from the Supreme Court and halls of Congress to boardrooms and Main Streets across all of the United States; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and honor the many ways that Hispanics have enriched the fabric of our society while also rededicating ourselves to address the lack of equal access to opportunity that many still face; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic population of the United States is now 62.1 million, constituting 18.7% of the total population. Specifically, in Washington County, the Hispanic population is now 107,642, constituting approximately 17.9% of our total population and represents a wide range of nationalities and backgrounds which reflect the remarkable diversity of the American people; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics continue their rich tradition of significant and diverse contributions to the cultural, educational, economic and political vitality of Washington County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 7th day of September 2021, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim September 15th – October 15th, 2021 as

Hispanic Heritage Month and encourage all residents and county employees to celebrate our unique and vibrant history and recommit ourselves to a shared future of healthy, peaceful, safe and sustainable communities for all.



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Kathryn Harrington, Washington County Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Mogg", written over a horizontal line.

Recording Secretary

MO 21-233

Minute Order