

Adopted October 6, 2020

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 13-2020:

Recognizing Latino Heritage Month in Mount Rainier and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos and the immense contributions of Latinos, Latinas and Latinx Community have made to enrich Mount Rainier.

Introduced By: Councilmember Celina Benitez

WHEREAS, from September 15, 2019, through October 15, 2019, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of the Census estimates the Latino population living in the 50 States at more than 59,000,000 people, plus an additional 3,300,000 living in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, making Latinos 18 percent of the total population of the United States;

WHEREAS, the Latino population in the United States is projected to grow to 107,000,000 people by 2065, at which point the Latino population will comprise more than 24 percent of the total population of the United States;

WHEREAS, the Latino population in the United States is currently the third largest population of Latinos worldwide, exceeding the size of the population in every Latin American and Caribbean country except Mexico and Brazil;

WHEREAS, from 1996 to 2016, the number of Hispanic students enrolled in schools, colleges, and universities in the United States doubled from 8,800,000 to 17,900,000, and Hispanics now make up 22.7 percent of all people enrolled in school in the United States;

WHEREAS, each year approximately 800,000 Latino citizens reach 18 years of age and become eligible to vote, a number that could grow to 1,000,000 per year, potentially adding 18,000,000 new Latino voters by 2032;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the annual purchasing power of Latinos was an estimated \$1,700,000,000,000, which is an amount greater than the economy of all except 17 countries in the world;

WHEREAS, Latino-owned businesses represent the fastest growing segment of small businesses in the United States, with Latino-owned businesses growing at more than 15 times the national rate;

WHEREAS, with 66.1 percent of Latinos participating in the labor force, Latinos have the highest rate of participation in the labor force of any racial or ethnic group, resulting in an expansion of the Latino labor force at a rate that is 3 times as fast as the rest of the population;

WHEREAS, as of 2017, there were approximately 326,800 Latino elementary and middle school teachers, 77,033 Latino chief executives of businesses, 54,576 Latino lawyers, 73,372 Latino physicians and surgeons, and 15,895 Latino psychologists, who contribute to the United States through their professions;

WHEREAS, Latinos have served in all branches of the Armed Forces and have fought bravely in every war in the history of the United States;

WHEREAS, as of 2019, there are more than 200,000 Hispanic members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and approximately 1,200,000 Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces, including 136,000 Latinas;

WHEREAS, an estimated 200,000 Hispanics were mobilized for World War I, and approximately 500,000 Hispanics served in World War II;

WHEREAS, more than 80,000 Latinos served in the Vietnam war, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in the conflict, even though Latinos comprised only 4.5 percent of the population of the United States during the Vietnam war;

WHEREAS, approximately 148,000 Latino soldiers served in the Korean war, including the 65th Infantry Regiment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, known as the "Borinqueneers", the only active duty, segregated Latino military unit in the history of the United States;

WHEREAS, 60 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces;

WHEREAS, Latinos are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest and all levels of the Government of the United States, including seat on the Supreme Court of the United States, Senate, House of Representatives, County Councils, Mayors and Councilmembers, Board of Education, Councilmembers, Mayor and Vice Mayors; and

WHEREAS, the Latino community has enriched the city of Mount Rainier through their diversity, and been active member of our community as elected officials, board member, committee members, volunteers, advisory roles, Delegates, election judges, and Staff members and Directors. Whether as the Latino community faces discriminating and racism

WHEREAS, Latinos harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Mount Rainier that

(1) City of Mount Rainier recognizes the celebration of Latino Heritage Month every year from September 15th through October 15th; and

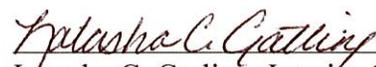
(2) The City of Mount Rainier esteems the integral role of Latinos and the manifold heritages of Latinos in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) The City of Mount Rainier should allocate funds yearly to commemorate events during this Month; and

(4) The City of Mount Rainier urges the people of the United States to observe Latino Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contribution, Ancestors and Culture of Latinos to the United States.

THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS 6th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2020.

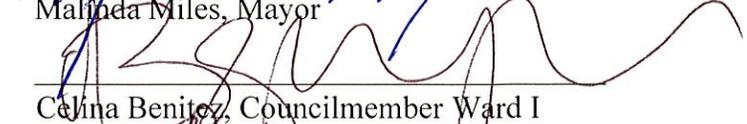
Attest:



Latasha C. Gatling, Interim City Manager



Malinda Miles, Mayor



Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward I



Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward I



Scott Cecil, Councilmember Ward II



Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward II