

Whereas

Whereas, the Hispanic heritage of the United States extends historically over five centuries and has been a consistent and vital influence in our country's growth and prosperity; and

Whereas, Hispanic or Latino culture is tied to Iberian ancestry, the rich tapestry of our culture recognizes that Hispanics or Latinos are multiracial and multicultural and also trace their historical roots to Indigenous and African ancestry. Hispanics represent people with origins from 24 different countries including: The United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Spain. They reflect an array of distinct and vibrant cultures that have enriched our community in valuable ways; and

Whereas, Oregon's Latino population is growing at a rate faster than the national rate, 12% of the State's population is now Latino, representing 72% growth since 2000. In Portland, there are over 60,974 people of Hispanic descent making up 10% of the City's population. While Portland's overall population for 2013 grew by 1.2%, the rate of growth for the City's Hispanic population in 2013 was 6.9%; and

Whereas, the number of U.S.-born Latino Oregonians has increased 21% compared to 1% growth in the number of foreign-born Latino Oregonians. The median age for Latinos is 24 years; and

Whereas, Hispanics have supported Portland's economy with myriad of contributions in the fields of commerce, science, technology, public service, health, and more. Today, their purchasing power in Portland is nearly \$4 billion; and

Whereas, Portland recognizes the many organizations, institutions, and people helping Hispanics overcome disparities such as poor health outcomes and low educational attainment, working tirelessly to ensure they remain a flourishing community; and

Whereas, continued access to jobs and livable wages for Oregon Latinos is essential for our state to thrive, Hispanics currently make up 5% of the City of Portland's workforce. To help connect more Hispanics to city jobs and to support them throughout their careers with the City, the Unidos Latinos Americanos (ULA) City employee affinity group was re-established in 2014. ULA has reached over 50 members and continues to grow.

Now, Therefore, I, Charlie Hales, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, do hereby proclaim September 15 to October 15, 2016 to be

Hispanic Heritage Month

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this month.