



## Regular Council **AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

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**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Approve a resolution acknowledging Hispanic Heritage Month  
**Meeting:** Regular Council - 05 Oct 2021  
**Department:** Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
**Staff Contact:** Elaine Hardy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Administrator

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

A resolution to acknowledge Hispanic Latinx Heritage Month

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Hispanic Heritage Month 10.5.21](#)

City of East Lansing, Michigan

**RESOLUTION CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

October 5, 2021

WHEREAS, the East Lansing City Council is honored to join citizens throughout the country in recognizing September 15, 2021, as the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month; and,

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

WHEREAS, every year since 1988 from September 15 to October 15, our country has celebrated Hispanic culture and contributions to our community and nation by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America; and,

WHEREAS, we begin the observance on September 15 because it is the anniversary of independence or Independence Day for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively; and,

WHEREAS, the 2021 theme for National Hispanic Heritage Month, Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope, invites us to celebrate Hispanic and Latinx heritage and to reflect on how great our future will be if we hold onto our resilience and hope; and,

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latinx Americans have significantly impacted education, medicine and public service. Pioneers such as Roberto Alvarez, whose groundbreaking case Roberto Alvarez v Lemon Grove School District (CA, 1931) was the first successful school desegregation case in American history; Joseph Marion Hernandez and Octavian Larrazolo, the first Latinx Americans to serve in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate and Carlos Juan Finlay, a Cuban immigrant who solved the Yellow Fever Mystery; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the year, we honor the contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans in our history as well as celebrate the contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans who serve our communities, such as civil rights trail blazer Cesar Chavez; and,

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden made the following Presidential Proclamation:

**During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize that Hispanic heritage is American heritage. We see it in every aspect of our national life: on our television and movie screens, in the music that moves our feet and in the foods we enjoy. We benefit from the many contributions of Hispanic scientists working in labs across the country to help us fight COVID-19 and the doctors and the nurses on the front lines caring for people's health. Our nation is represented by Hispanic diplomats who share our values in countries all over the world and is strengthened by military members and their families who serve and sacrifice for the United States. Our communities are represented by Hispanic elected officials and our children are taught by Hispanic teachers. Our future will be shaped by Hispanic engineers who are working to develop new technology that will help us grasp our clean energy future and by the skilled union workers who are going to build it. National Hispanic Heritage Month is an important reminder of how much strength we draw as a nation from our immigrant roots and our values as a nation of immigrants. I am proud to recognize my four Hispanic Cabinet Secretaries – Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and Small Business Administrator Isabel Guzman – who are all leading executive departments that oversee critical components of American life. My administration is focused on making equity a priority and ensuring that Hispanics are front and center in our efforts to improve the lives of working families across the county.**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Hispanic American Heritage Month be used to reflect on rich culture, history and contributions of Latinx and Hispanic peoples to the enrichment of the American experience.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of East Lansing encourages businesses, organizations, and public entities to recognize Hispanic American Heritage Month.**