

National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month

WHEREAS, September 15 - October 15 is recognized as National Hispanic Heritage Month known as "Mes de la Herencia Hispana," which is a time to honor the invaluable ways Hispanics and Latinos contribute to our common goals, celebrate their diverse cultures, and work toward a stronger, more inclusive, and more prosperous society for all; and

WHEREAS, September 15 is significant as a starting date for National Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the anniversary of independence for several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, while Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on September 16 and September 18 respectively; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is committed to creating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity and ensures all residents have equitable opportunities to lead healthy, peaceful, safe and sustainable lives; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, 2.8 percent of the Buncombe County population identified as Hispanic or Latino; that grew to 6.0 percent in 2010 and 8.1 percent in 2020, which represents is a significant and fast-growing demographic; and

WHEREAS, Representatives from the Hispanic and Latino community assisted Buncombe County in developing its inaugural comprehensive Language Access Plan that is helping to make all of the County's services more equitable; and

WHEREAS, residents are encouraged to learn more about the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans through the Buncombe County Library, which has cultivated a reading list of important books written about and by Hispanic and Latin American authors; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County's commitment to being a more inclusive community is exemplified through the Buncombe County Creative Equity Mural Project, which features the mural, "Eres un orgullo Latino," translated means, You are Latin Pride, which was designed and painted by artist Leslie Reynalte-Llanco. The 2,590 square-foot mural depicts 12 figures from the Latino community picturing members from all walks of life and their different goals.

NOW, THEREFORE that let it be proclaimed September 15-October 15, 2024, as

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in Buncombe County and encourage our community to join us in celebrating the great contributions of Hispanic and Latin-Americans to our county, state, and nation.