

RESOLUTION NO. 24-____

A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER 15 TO OCTOBER 15 AS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month, *Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana*, is a period from September 15 to October 15 in the United States that recognizes the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, During Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the countless contributions of more than 60 million Hispanic Americans to our culture and society. Hispanic Americans are the largest minority group in the United States today, and generations of Hispanic Americans have consistently made our country stronger; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado 22.5 percent or 1.3 million of the population is encompassed of those of Hispanic or Latino origin and in El Paso County 17.8 percent or 129,984 of the population is Hispanic or Latino; and

WHEREAS, Latino gross domestic product is valued at \$3.2 trillion, fifth largest in the world, and purchasing power of \$40 billion in Colorado. Economic growth comes from Hispanic youth, population growth, labor force participation and educational attainment.

WHEREAS, educational attainment among the Hispanic community has exponentially increased. In 1996, 58.2% of the Hispanic population ages 25 to 29 graduated from high school; by 2021, the share increased to 88.5%. The number of Hispanic people ages 18 to 24 enrolled in college increased to 2.4 million in 2021, up from 1.2 million in 2005.

WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans have contributed greatly to protecting our nation's freedom, including 59 recipients of the Medal of Honor. Olga Custodio served the first Latina US military pilot in the United States Air Force and retired in 2003 as a Lieutenant Colonel with over 11,000 hours of flight time logged.

WHEREAS, the Hispanic and Latino community of Colorado Springs celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Month as a way to celebrate their heritage and culture. Hispanic Heritage Month is also an opportunity to enjoy the cultural diversity of our community and the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. That City Council hereby recognizes September 15 through October 15, 2024 as Hispanic Heritage Month and urges residents celebrate and promote the many contributions of Hispanic Americans to our City and County.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 10th day of September, 2024.

Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk