

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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 for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic and Latino culture has contributed greatly to our society and community through businesses, civic engagement, and philanthropic involvement; and

WHEREAS, Margaret M. Vasquez “Marge” became the first Hispanic woman on Colorado Springs City Council in 1976. She and her husband Joe D. Lolo Vasquez opened the Bean Bandit restaurant in 1966. Additionally, she served on the U.S. Service Academy Board, Latino Chamber of Commerce of Colorado Springs, University of Southern Colorado Advisory Board, United Way Board, Airport Advisory Board, St. Mary’s Booster Club, and many other organizations; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Rivera was the City of Colorado Springs first Hispanic Mayor. He served two terms as Mayor from 2003 to 2011. Mayor Rivera was instrumental in the construction the Southern Delivery Water system and ensuring the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee headquarters stayed in Colorado Springs. He also served as a member of the board of directors for the Colorado Springs and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and Pikes Peaks United Way; and

WHEREAS, Luis A. Cortez, Jr., graduated from Trinidad Catholic High School and served in the United States Air Force. He earned a Master’s in Education from Adams State College and enjoyed teaching elementary school, working for the Urban League of the Pikes Peak Region, and counseling students as an academic advisor at Pikes Peak Community College. He was tirelessly devoted to community service and in 1974 became the first Latino City Councilman elected to office in Colorado Springs. He was the co-founder of the Latin American Education Foundation and served as president of the League of United Latin American Citizens; and

WHEAREAS, Entrepreneur and local resident Jose Alvarado founded La Fiesta Bonita in 1956, as the first formal celebration of Mexican Culture in the state of Colorado. The three-day festival drew thousands to downtown Colorado Springs and was capped by the La Fiesta Bonita Queen’s Coronation Ball. Monies raised benefited the National G.I. Forum, providing college scholarships to talented students

WHEREAS, Celestino and Marcella Archuleta moved to Colorado Springs from the San Luis Valley in the 1960s. After living near the Conejos Neighborhood, they moved to the newly established neighborhood of Pleasant Valley where they were the first and only Hispano family for many years. Celestino and Marcella started National Systems & Research, an extremely successful tech business in Colorado Springs that employed over 400 people.

WHEREAS, the Hispanic and Latino culture has had a profound and positive influence on our country and community through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and selfless service; and

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, 2021 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 14th day of September, 2021.

Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk