

RESOLUTION NO. 23-\_\_\_\_

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, Hispanic Heritage Month began as Hispanic Heritage Week, established by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 and was expanded to a month-long celebration in 1988 by President Ronald Regan; and

WHEREAS, the day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for many Latin American countries. In addition, Mexico celebrates their Independence Day on September 16; and

WHEREAS, Mexican independence from Spain became known as Fiestas Patrias, a patriotic holiday in Mexico, much like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Fiestas Patrias occurs the day after the start Hispanic Heritage month, commemorating Father Miguel Hidalgo, the parish priest of the small town of Dolores, who called for Mexicans to rise up and overthrow Spanish rule known as the *Grito de Dolores*, The Cry of Liberty!; and

WHEREAS, the second annual local Fiestas Patrias will be held in the heart of downtown Colorado Springs on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This two-day family friendly festival will provide live music, dancing, vendor booths, and plenty of amazing food; 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 21.9 percent or 1.2 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, we recognize the substantial impact Hispanic Americans have on the U.S. economy, accounting for 11.1 percent of buying power in 2020.

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, we want to honor the Hispanic and Latina women who have pioneered in the United States leading the way for generations of women and girls to excel. Such as, Ellen Ochoa who was the first female Hispanic astronaut to fly in space in 1993 and Justice Sonia Sotomayor who made history in 2009 by becoming the first Latina to serve on the Supreme Court; 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, 2023 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 12th day of September, 2023.

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Council President

ATTEST:

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Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk