

## **Hispanic Heritage Month Declaration**

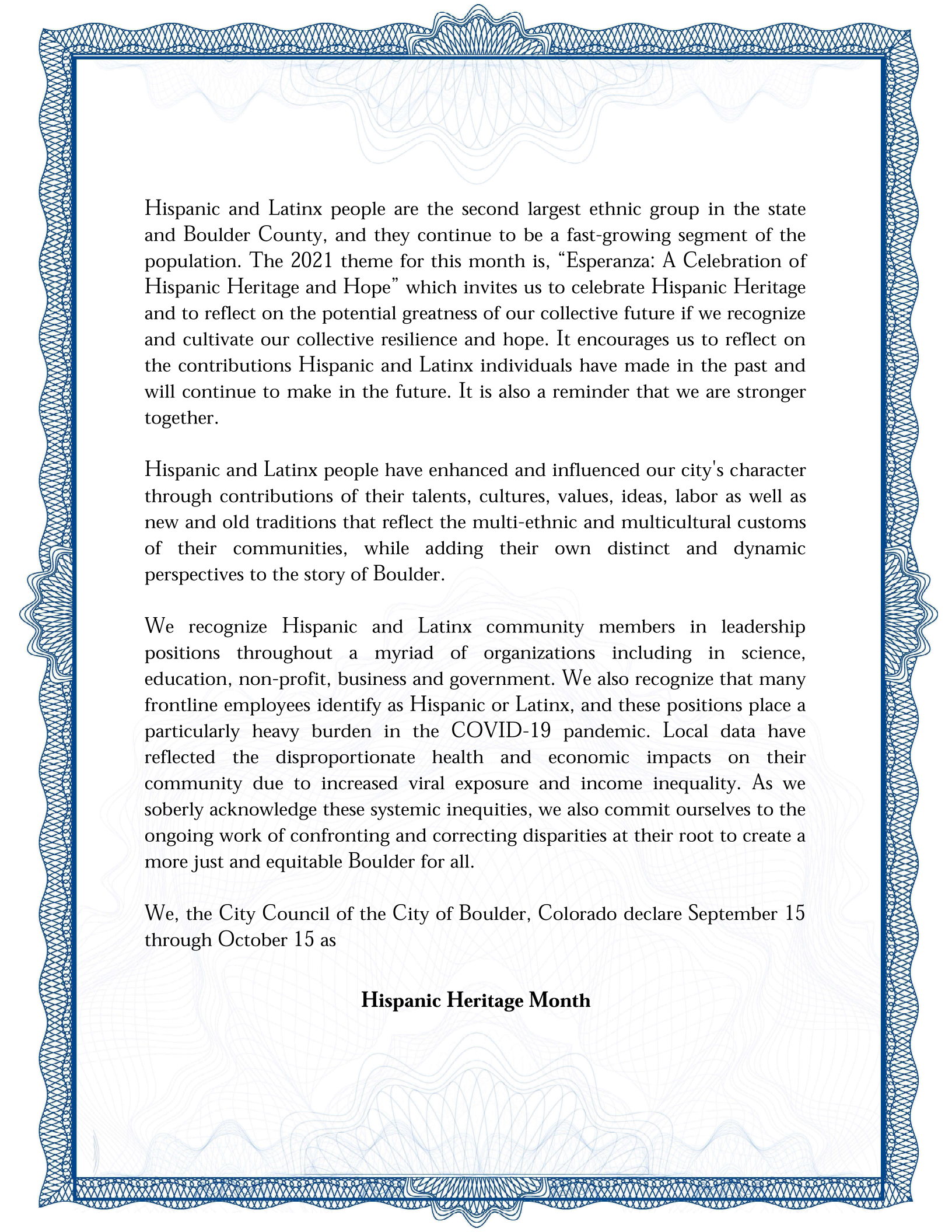
**September 15 - October 15, 2021**

National Hispanic Heritage Month is recognized from September 15 - October 15, and it is a time to honor the invaluable ways Hispanic and Latinx Americans have shaped our community, celebrate their diverse cultures, and work toward a stronger, more inclusive, and more prosperous society for all.

The Hispanic Heritage observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson recognizing that five Central American countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua - celebrate their respective Independence Days on September 15, while Mexico celebrates it on September 16. In 1988 the week was expanded by President Ronald Reagan to cover a 30-day period to celebrate the contributions of Hispanic and Latinx people to the United States and those American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

The act of recognizing and celebrating the contributions of Hispanic and Latinx individuals is important, however, it can be difficult to accurately do so when we examine the complicated history of their many diasporas. Between Spanish colonization, the transatlantic slave trade, and the forcible seizure of Indigenous lands, including in the recent past, Hispanic and Latinx Americans have known many homes and traveled many paths. People with ancestry in Spain and the countries that today form part of North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean, include Indigenous peoples and also the descendants of African peoples enslaved by European colonizers and forcibly brought to these lands. We acknowledge that capturing these complex histories and identities as only Hispanic and Latinx oversimplifies history and neglects the richness of these peoples as individuals and as a community. “Hispanic”, “Latinx” and “Latin America” are all foreign names placed on the peoples and land of this continent. We recognize and support the movement for self-determination and epistemic decolonization efforts of Indigenous peoples that call this continent Abya-Yala.





Hispanic and Latinx people are the second largest ethnic group in the state and Boulder County, and they continue to be a fast-growing segment of the population. The 2021 theme for this month is, “Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope” which invites us to celebrate Hispanic Heritage and to reflect on the potential greatness of our collective future if we recognize and cultivate our collective resilience and hope. It encourages us to reflect on the contributions Hispanic and Latinx individuals have made in the past and will continue to make in the future. It is also a reminder that we are stronger together.

Hispanic and Latinx people have enhanced and influenced our city's character through contributions of their talents, cultures, values, ideas, labor as well as new and old traditions that reflect the multi-ethnic and multicultural customs of their communities, while adding their own distinct and dynamic perspectives to the story of Boulder.

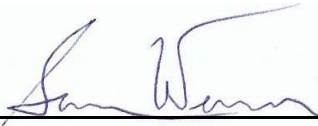
We recognize Hispanic and Latinx community members in leadership positions throughout a myriad of organizations including in science, education, non-profit, business and government. We also recognize that many frontline employees identify as Hispanic or Latinx, and these positions place a particularly heavy burden in the COVID-19 pandemic. Local data have reflected the disproportionate health and economic impacts on their community due to increased viral exposure and income inequality. As we soberly acknowledge these systemic inequities, we also commit ourselves to the ongoing work of confronting and correcting disparities at their root to create a more just and equitable Boulder for all.

We, the City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado declare September 15 through October 15 as

**Hispanic Heritage Month**



And invite the entire community to share and participate in the celebration of this month, and consider the great impacts that Hispanic and Latinx people have had on our lives and the community at large. Learning about, valuing, and honoring heritage is an ongoing and reflective process that goes well beyond tonight's declaration and this month alone. Please take this opportunity and all year long to come together in unity to celebrate this significant month and its people.



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Sam Weaver, Mayor