



**A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month began over a half-century ago as a weeklong celebration in 1968 to honor the anniversaries of independence for Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile, and Belize, as well as honoring Mexico’s Día de la Raza, and in 1988 was expanded to a monthlong celebration taking place from September 15 to October 15, and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks deeply values the contributions Hispanic and Latinx community members make to Tacoma’s social, economic, physical, and cultural well-being, and

WHEREAS, Hispanic-owned businesses represent the fastest growing segment of small businesses in the United States, with Latino-owned businesses growing at more than 15 times the national rate, and

WHEREAS, with 66.1 percent labor force participation, Latinos have the highest labor participation rate of any racial or ethnic group, resulting in the Latino labor force expanding 3 times as fast as the rest of the population, and

WHEREAS, a Congressional data indicates that number of Hispanic students in schools, colleges, and universities between 1996 to 2016 in the United States with enrollment doubling from 8.8 million to 17.9 million, and Hispanics now make up 22.7 percent of all people enrolled in school, and

WHEREAS, more than 1 in 4 public school students in the United States are Latino, and the ratio of Latino students is expected to rise to nearly 30 percent by 2027, and

WHEREAS, various members of our own community, like the Calavera Collective, uplift Tacomans in a spirit of hope - or as our Spanish-speaking community members would say, “esperanza”- through partnerships sharing valued traditions of Hispanic culture such as hosting and inviting the community to join in celebrating Dia de los Muertos, a day of remembrance honoring loved ones who have passed on, and

WHEREAS, the Calavera Collective serves as a bridge to foster a sense of belonging among the Hispanic community and their neighbors of all backgrounds, to support the well-being of all who live in Tacoma and Pierce County, and

WHEREAS, members of this grassroots organization provide authentic cultural enrichment and education, and strengthen cultural understanding by inviting and welcoming all Tacomans to take part in activities and events that open the hearts and minds of participants, and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks is committed to support and strengthen our Hispanic community through our continued partnerships that further cultural understanding and deepen our appreciation for wide range of contributions our Hispanic community brings to our quality of life both in our community and across our nation, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners approved an Anti-Racism Resolution No. R32-20 to disrupt structural and institutional racism and convey the agency’s commitment to actively and intentionally incorporate racial equity in its work, and

WHEREAS, we encourage all who reside in Tacoma to join our commitment to anti-racism and build a community that is more just, peaceful, and celebratory of all cultures by taking part in events and activities during this month of celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners, hereby recognize and honor September 15 – October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

The foregoing proclamation was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regularly scheduled meeting held on September 27, 2021.

ATTEST:

Board President

Board Clerk