



PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968 as a weeklong celebration of the histories, cultures and contributions of those whose ancestors came from Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. It also honors the anniversaries of independence for Latin American countries like Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile, and Belize, and in 1988 was expanded to a monthlong celebration from September 15 to October 15, and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks celebrates the Hispanic community, which makes up 12 percent of Tacoma's population and 19 percent of the country's population, and deeply values the contributions Hispanic and Latine community members make to the city's social, economic, physical, and cultural well-being, and

WHEREAS, continued partnerships that support and strengthen our Hispanic community are important to Metro Parks so we can further cultural understanding, build a more inclusive and welcoming community, and deepen our appreciation for the consistent, vital influence brought by the Hispanic community, and

WHEREAS, local groups like the Calavera Collective and Voice Tacoma Radio Universal uplift, connect and unite Tacomans through shared values and histories, and

WHEREAS, a community-wide celebration of Dia de los Muertos, a day of remembrance honoring loved ones who have passed on, will occur Oct. 28 at Eastside Community Center with food, local artists, a community altar and traditions intended to honor the culture's roots, and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic Business Association of Ruston will mark the month with decorations representing 21 Hispanic countries and Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is partnering with them by adopting a beach theme in honor of Baja and Tulum, as well as an area decorated with Monarch butterflies in trees to represent the Mexican state of Michoacan, and

WHEREAS, we encourage all who live, work and recreate in Tacoma to join our commitment to anti-racism and diversity, and build a united community that is more just, peaceful; and accepting 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 presented at the regularly scheduled Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma Park Board meeting held on September 11, 2023.



ATTEST:

Board President

Board Clerk

Proclamation