

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2021 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-094-2021

Proposed by Council Member Taveras

Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Anderson-Walker, Dernoga, Franklin, Ivey,
Davis, Glaros, Hawkins, Harrison, Turner

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction September 21, 2021

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Hispanic Heritage Month

For the purpose of recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to the United States and Prince George’s County.

WHEREAS, each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens with heritage rooted in Latin America; and

WHEREAS, the observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15th and ending on October 15th. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, pursuant to Public Law 100-402; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to honor and celebrate the many ways Hispanic and Latino Americans contribute to the success of our country; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month was created to showcase and highlight Hispanic and Latino contributions throughout our nation and as a reminder that Hispanics have been part of the history of this nation since its beginning; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of the Census estimates the Hispanic population living in the Fifty States at more than 59,000,000 people, plus an additional 3,300,000 living in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, making Hispanic Americans 18 percent of the total population of the United States and the largest racial or ethnic minority group in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Latino population in the United States is projected to grow to 107,000,000 people by 2065, at which point the Latino population will comprise more than 24 percent of the total population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Latino population in the United States is currently the third largest population of Latinos worldwide, exceeding the size of the population in every Latin American and Caribbean country except Mexico and Brazil; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 200,000 Hispanics were mobilized for World War I, approximately 500,000 in World War II, more than 80,000 served in the Vietnam war, approximately 148,000 served in the Korean war, including the 65th Infantry Regiment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, known as the “Borinqueneers”—the only active duty, segregated Latino military unit in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Sixty Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of the Government of the United States, including one seat on the Supreme Court of the United States, six seats in the Senate, and forty-eight seats in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2020 data, Maryland is one of the most diverse states in the South with the largest gain in their Diversity Index, where Prince George’s County has seen an increase, with the Latino population being the second largest ethnic group in Prince George’s County; and

WHEREAS, Maryland’s growing Hispanic population is strong and vibrant and a key part of the fabric of our State and especially our County. Hispanic Americans and recent Latin American immigrants continue to make great contributions to this nation and to the great State of Maryland, where they harbor a deep commitment to family, community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the County Council recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2021, through October 15, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council holds in its highest esteem, the integral role of Latinos and the manifold heritages of Latinos in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council strongly encourages the people of the Prince George’s County to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contributions of Latinos to the County.

Adopted this 21st day of September, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council