

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2022 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-116-2022
Proposed by Council Member Taveras
Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Hawkins, Harrison, Streeter, Burroughs, Turner,
Glaros, Dernoga, Franklin, Ivey, and Medlock
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction September 20, 2022

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Hispanic Heritage Month

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

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

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

13 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 data, Maryland is one of the
14 most diverse states in the South with the largest gain in their Diversity Index, where Prince
15 George's County has seen a 60% increase in the Latino population making them the second
16 largest ethnic group in Prince George's County; consisting of at least 1 out of every 5 residents
17 in the County and with the overwhelming majority being from Central America, particularly
18 Salvadoran American and

19 **WHEREAS**, September 15, 1821, which marks the 201st Independence Day of the
20 Republic of El Salvador, and we wish to celebrate this occasion and the role of Salvadoran
21 nationals and immigrants for their economic vitality, development, diversity, and rich cultural

1 contributions in our state, County, and around the remaining Metropolitan Area of Washington,
2 DC; and

3 **WHEREAS** Maryland's growing Hispanic population is strong and vibrant and a key part
4 of the fabric of our State and especially our County. Hispanic Americans and recent Latin
5 American immigrants continue to make great contributions to this nation and to the great State of
6 Maryland, where they harbor a deep commitment to family, community, an enduring work ethic,
7 and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society, particularly through their
8 entrepreneurial endeavors; and

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

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

14 **WHEREAS**, the Bureau of the Census estimates the Hispanic population living in the 50
15 States at more than 59,000,000 people, plus an additional 3,300,000 living in the territory of
16 Puerto Rico, making Hispanic Americans 18 percent of the total population of the United States
17 and the largest racial or ethnic minority group in the United States; and

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

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

24 **WHEREAS**, Latinos have taken part in every single war or the United States, an estimated
25 200,000 Hispanics were mobilized for World War I, approximately 500,000 in World War II,
26 more than 80,000 served in the Vietnam war, approximately 148,000 served in the Korean war,
27 including the 65th Infantry Regiment of the territory of Puerto Rico, the only active duty,
28 segregated Latino military unit in the history of the United States; and

29 **WHEREAS**, 60 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the
30 highest award for valor in action against an enemy force bestowed on an individual serving in the

1 Armed Forces; and

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

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Prince George's
7 County, Maryland, that the County Council recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage
8 Month from September 15, 2022, through October 15, 2022.

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

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

Adopted this 20th day of September, 2022.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council