

State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State has the fourth largest Latino population in the United States, whereby nearly one in five New Yorkers identifies as Latino; since 2000, the Latino population in this state has grown by almost 33 percent, today making up 19 percent of all New Yorkers, and their contributions are many and significant, improving the quality of life for people of all backgrounds; and

Whereas, as established by an act of the United States Congress, each year Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationwide from September 15th to October 15th, with September 15th marking the anniversary of declared independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, followed by the anniversary of Mexico's declared independence on September 16th, Chile's on September 18th, and Belize's on September 21st; and

Whereas, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the rich heritage and history of our various Latino communities, and we are proud to join in this annual observance and celebrate the significant and far-reaching contributions of Latino New Yorkers who have enriched and strengthened our state through their hard work, dedication, and ideas; their achievements are visible in all areas of endeavor, including public service, medicine, science and technology, the law, business and industry, education, the arts, and sports, and we recognize that our state and nation's collective Latino community is a foundation of our workforce and our success; and

Whereas, as the early epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year has been especially difficult and demanding for New York State, with our Latino communities particularly impacted – we honor all of the Latino health care workers, first responders, and other essential workers for their heroic efforts in responding selflessly and swiftly to this health crisis, and recognize how vital they are to our daily lives; and

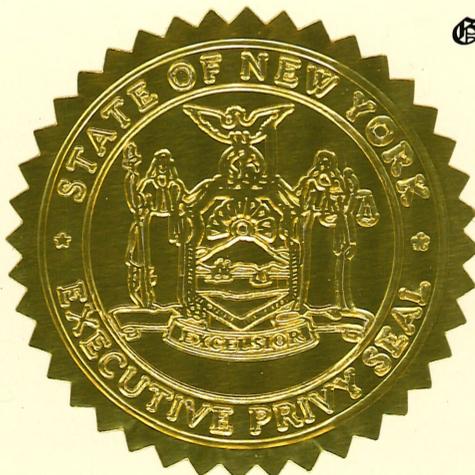
Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that nowhere is human compassion and generosity more visible than among New York State's diverse communities, and we are so proud to be home to nearly 3.8 million Latino residents – including families that have lived here for generations and those who are among our state's newest residents, this month we celebrate their presence, their increasingly visible role in our society, and the many distinct cultural traditions and contributions they bring to our Empire State; and

Whereas, our entire nation takes the opportunity to recognize our Latino communities during this month-long celebration of their heritage and history; it is fitting that all New Yorkers share in events that highlight the extensive legacy of accomplishment, success, and enjoy the rich abundance of Latino customs, music, food and art, as we further reaffirm our commitment that all immigrants will always have the opportunity as New Yorkers to build lives of dignity and purpose, contribute to our economy, and make our state the strong leader that it is;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 15 - October 15, 2020 as

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eighth day
of September in the year two thousand twenty.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa