

**RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15 AS  
NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

*August 28, 2019*

*WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the contributions Hispanic Americans have made to American society and culture and to honor five Central American neighbors of the United States, who celebrate their independence in September; and*

*WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month had its origins when the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 90-498 on September 17, 1968, which authorized and requested the President of the United States to issue an annual proclamation designating the week, including September 15 and 16, as National Hispanic Heritage Week; and*

*WHEREAS, with the U.S. Congress directing that this week should include September 15 and 16, this law celebrated Hispanic Americans and the anniversaries of independence for the five Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as well as Mexico's independence on September 16; and*

*WHEREAS, between 1969 and 1988, U.S. Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan issued a series of annual proclamations that designated a week in September, including September 15 and 16, as National Hispanic Heritage Week; these proclamations celebrated the contributions to American of men and women of Hispanic origin as well as recalling the work of the early Spanish explorers and settlers; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1988, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 100-402, which amended Public Law 90-498 and established National Hispanic Heritage Month, and the U.S. President was again authorized and requested to issue an annual proclamation designating the "31-day period beginning September 15 and ending on October 15" as National Hispanic Heritage Month; and*

*WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush issued the first proclamation, Presidential Proclamation 6021, for National Hispanic Heritage Month on September 14, 1989, and every U.S. President has since issued a proclamation for National Hispanic Heritage Month; and*

*WHEREAS, the fabric of our nation is richer and stronger due to the significant influence and contributions of inspirational Hispanic American leaders, including labor leaders Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta; folk singer and activist Joan Baez; Nobel Prize-winning physicist Luis Walter Alvarez; sports legends Jose Canseco, Roberto Clemente, Oscar De La Hoya, Nancy Lopez, Chi Chi Rodriguez, and Sammy Sosa; actors and actresses including Salma Hayek, Raul Julia, Ricardo Montalban, Rita Moreno, and Edward James Olmos; missionary Junípero Serra; singers and musicians Celia Cruz, Gloria Estefan, Jerry Garcia, Trini Lopez, Jennifer Lopez, Linda Ronstadt, and Selena; and politicians Henry Cisneros, Joseph Mario Hernandez, Melquiades Martinez, and Nydia Velásquez, among many others; and*

*WHEREAS, today nearly 55 million people or 17 percent of Americans are of Hispanic or Latino origin and another 3.7 million are residents of Puerto Rico; in South San Francisco, nearly 33.9 percent of the population of 67,082 is of Hispanic origin.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Mayor Karyl Matsumoto and the City Council of South San Francisco do hereby proclaim September 15 – October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month in South San Francisco and encourage all residents and visitors alike to join us in celebrating this special month.*

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*Karyl Matsumoto, Mayor*

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*Richard Garbarino, Vice Mayor*

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*Mark Addiego, Council Member*

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*Mark Nagales, Council Member*

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*Buenaflor Nicolas, Council Member*

*Dated: August 28, 2019*