

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 07-152

Proclaiming September 15th through October 15th, 2007 Hispanic Heritage Month in Multnomah County Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. September 15th through October 15th is nationally recognized as Hispanic Heritage Month
- b. Multnomah County takes great pride in the diversity of our community and in the impressive and valuable contributions made by our Latino residents to the County's growth, prosperity and well-being.
- c. Latinos represent people with origins from 21 different countries including Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, The Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela and the United States. The Latino people reflect a wide array of races, religions and cultures. Today, Multnomah County is home to 63,355 Latinos.
- d. Latinos have contributed to the rich history of Multnomah County and the State of Oregon for over 225 years, beginning with the expedition of Spanish sailor Juan Perez and his Mexican crew along the coasts of Oregon and Washington.
- e. Between 1943 and 1947, 15,000 Mexicans were recruited to Oregon to relieve severe farm labor shortages caused by World War II through the Emergency Farm Labor Supply Program or "Bracero" Program.
- f. In 2001, Oregon's Hispanic buying power reached \$2.9 billion annually and over 70% of Latinos in Multnomah County over the age of 16 are in the workforce.
- g. The flourishing Latino population in Oregon is reflected in the growth of businesses and organizations formed to serve it. Portland's Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce has grown to over 700 business members in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Four bi-lingual and Spanish language newspapers are published in Multnomah County, and this year, a television station began broadcasting a Spanish-language local newscast.
- h. The more than 357 Latinos employed by Multnomah County bring language, cultural assets, diversity and richness to our workforce.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

September 15th through October 15th, 2007 as Hispanic Heritage month in Multnomah County, Oregon in recognition and celebration of the many contributions of Latinos to the county and our community. We urge all residents of Multnomah County to celebrate the history and recognize the contributions of Latinos to our community, state, and nation.

ADOPTED this 20th day of September, 2007.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Chair

SUBMITTED BY:

Maria Rojo de Steffey, Commissioner, District 1
Jeff Cogen, Commissioner, District 2
Lisa Naito, Commission District 3