

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 2010-135

Proclaiming September 15th through October 15th, 2010 Latino and Hispanic Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The Latino and Hispanic heritage of the United States extends historically over five centuries and has been a consistent and vital influence in our country's growth and prosperity. Latinos and Hispanics 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. From the mid 1800s to the mid 1900s, Latinos mined for resources, worked in the lumber industry, helped shape our livestock industry through the "vaquero" cowboy tradition and built highways and railroads in Oregon. By the mid 1950s, Latino and Hispanic farm workers became a crucial part of Oregon's agricultural economy. As early as the 1960s, Latinos and Hispanics have created businesses meeting local demand in the service, health, manufacturing, and high tech sectors, while establishing themselves as integral community members working in public service and civic society.
- b. Latinos and Hispanics represent people with origins from 24 different countries including The United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Spain. They reflect a wide diversity of ethnicities, religions and cultures.
- c. Latinos and Hispanics are the largest ethnic minority in the US, estimating 47.8 million in 2010, 15.5% of the Nation's population. They have a projected growth of 46.5% by 2050 – an estimated 102.6 million people that will represent 24.4% of the US population.
- d. Latinos and Hispanics continue to be the fastest-growing population in Oregon and represent 11.2% of the state's population. In Multnomah and Clark counties, the number of Latinos and Hispanics increased the most - 7% in 2007. Today, Multnomah County is home to 79,226 Latinos and Hispanics, 10.9% of the County's population.
- e. Latino and Hispanic owned businesses are increasingly impacting the overall US economy. Existing trends support the projection of at least 2.2 million Latino Hispanic-owned businesses generating close to \$388.7 billion in revenues in 2008. This represents a compounded annual growth rate of 9.1% over the last 5 years. They employ more than 1.5 million workers and pay approximately \$40

billion in wages. In 2002, Latinos and Hispanics owned 1,211 businesses in Multnomah County.

- f. Nation wide, Latinos and Hispanics represent \$850 billion in purchasing power; \$3.8 billion in the City of Portland alone. Statewide, that number grows to \$5.6 billion.
- g. Multnomah County takes great pride in the growing diversity of our community and in the impressive and valuable contributions made by our Latino and Hispanic residents to the County's growth, prosperity and well-being. Latinos and Latinas are showing their remarkable resiliency as a people in diverse ways and forms such as: family support; remarkably positive infant health; a willingness to take jobs that few others will accept; and, through increasingly energetic community groups.
- h. Latinos and Hispanics represent 8% of Multnomah County's work force. The approximately 400 Latino and Hispanic County employees bring language, cultural assets, diversity and richness to our workforce.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

September 15th through October 15th, 2010 as Latino and Hispanic Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon, in recognition and celebration of the many contributions of Latinos and Hispanics to the county and our community. We urge all residents of Multnomah County to celebrate the history and recognize the contributions of Latinos and Hispanics to our community, state, and nation.

ADOPTED this 16th day of September, 2010.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Jeff Cogen, Chair



Deborah Kafoury
Commissioner District 1



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Commissioner District 3





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Submitted by: Jeff Cogen, Chair
Guillermo A. Maciel, Policy Advisor – Multnomah County Chair's Office