

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2014-112

Proclaiming September 15th through October 15th, 2014 as Hispanic/Latino 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 were a crucial part of Oregon's agricultural economy. As early as the 1960s, Latinos and Hispanics initiated businesses meeting local demand in the service industry, health, manufacturing, and high tech sectors, while establishing themselves as integral community members working in public service and civic society.
- b. The Latino community in Multnomah County has grown rapidly over the last two decades and people of Hispanic and Latino descent now comprise an estimated 12% of the overall county population.
- c. By 2050, the Latino population in Multnomah County is expected to roughly double in size. About two of every ten county residents will be Latino. Many of them will be children or young adults, a population developing health habits for life. Efforts now to prevent chronic disease, and promote health and well-being are long-term investments that can reap substantial benefits.
- d. Latinos in Oregon are a diverse mix of first generation immigrants and long time residents. About three-quarters of all Latinos in the county are originally from Mexico. The remainder come from other parts of Latin America. Although about half of the overall Latino population is US-born and half foreign-born, most Latino children were born in the US.
- e. Latinos in Multnomah County live in households with mixed immigrant statuses, meaning family members and relatives are a mix of native-born citizens, naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, temporary workers, and undocumented.
- f. Latinos and Hispanics represent 8% of Multnomah County's Workforce. The approximately four hundred Latino and Hispanic County employees bring language, cultural assets, diversity and richness to our workforce.

- 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 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.

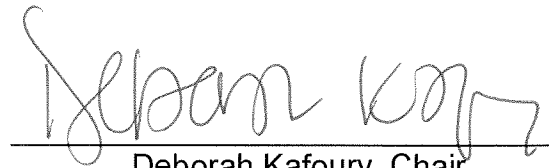
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

September 15th through October 15th, 2014 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.

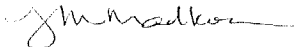
ADOPTED this 25th day of September, 2014.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Consuelo Saragoza, Senior Advisor of Public Health & Community Initiatives,
Multnomah County Health Department.