

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

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2011-119**

Proclaiming September 15th through October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - 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 have been a crucial part Oregon's agricultural economy. As early as the 1960s, Latinos and Hispanics have initiated 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 50.5 million in 2010, 16% of the Nation's population. The US Hispanic population is estimated to triple by 2050 – representing a projected 29% of the US population.
- d. Latinos and Hispanics continue to be the fastest-growing population in Oregon and represent almost 12% of the state's population. In Multnomah County the Latino/Hispanic community also represent the fastest growing demographic, showing a 38% percent increase – 30,531 new community members over the last 10 years. Today, Multnomah County is home to 80,138 Latinos and Hispanics, almost 11 percent 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 Dollars in revenues in 2008. This represents a compounded annual growth rate of 9.1 percent over the last 5 years. They employ more than 1.5 million workers and pay approximately \$40 billion in wages. In 2007 Latinos and Hispanics owned an estimated 2,257 businesses in Multnomah County.

- f. Nation wide, Latinos and Hispanics are estimated to wield more than \$1 Trillion in purchasing power.
- 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.
- h. Latinos and Hispanics represent 8% of Multnomah County's Workforce. The approximately four hundred sixty-four Latino and Hispanic County employees bring language, cultural assets, diversity and richness to our workforce.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 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 29th day of September, 2011.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
Vice-Chair Deborah Kafoury

SUBMITTED BY: Linda Castillo, Program Manager – Bienestar de la Familia & SUN Service System