

City of Petaluma

Proclamation

LATINO/A/E/X HERITAGE MONTH - 2024

WHEREAS, the City of Petaluma recognizes Latino/a/e/x Heritage Month by honoring the histories, cultures and contributions of community members whose ancestors came from México, the Caribbean, Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, the City of Petaluma is committed to continue building a welcoming and neighborly community, embracing diversity and fostering equity for every resident; and

WHEREAS, more than 21% of the City of Petaluma's population identifies as Hispanic or Latin American, Spanish is the second most spoken language in the community, and 35% of the student population in Petaluma City Schools District is Latino/a/e/x; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 million people in the United States identify as Hispanic or Latin American, representing over 18% of the population nationwide; Latin Americans continue to enrich our Nation's character, shape our common future, and strengthen America's promise; and

WHEREAS, Latino/a/e/x Heritage Month, whose roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, México and Chile also celebrate their independence during Latino/a/e/x Heritage Month, on September 16 and September 18, respectively; and

WHEREAS, National Latino/a/e/x Heritage Month is observed from September 15th to October 15th to recognize the contributions made by Hispanic and Latin Americans in the United States, and celebrate their heritage and culture; and

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming environment for all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, or place of origin, enhances Petaluma's cultural, economic growth, global competitiveness, and overall prosperity for current and future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Kevin McDonnell, Mayor of Petaluma, along with the members of the Petaluma City Council, do hereby proclaim **Latino/a/e/x Heritage Month** in the City of Petaluma and encourage Petalumans to share in this special annual tribute through participating in the Historic and Cultural Preservation Committee and other community events to learn about and celebrate the generations of Hispanic and Latin Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.

Kevin McDonnell, Mayor

Caitlin Corley, City Clerk