



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS,** Hispanic Heritage Month is a national celebration held annually from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> where we recognize and celebrate the history, culture, and contributions made by Hispanic and Latino Americans. This tradition began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and later was expanded to be a month-long celebration by President Ronald Regan in 1988; and,

**WHEREAS,** The commencement date of September 15<sup>th</sup> is important because it marks the anniversary of Independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua followed by the Independence of Mexico on September 16<sup>th</sup> and the Independence of Chile on September 18<sup>th</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** Hispanic Americans bring a rich cultural heritage representing many countries, ethnicities and religious traditions which contribute to America's future; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Hispanic community has had a profound influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and services, and they have enhanced and shaped our national heritage with centuries old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community; and,

**WHEREAS,** The City of Merced invites all members of the community to learn more about the rich Hispanic culture, traditions and history, and celebrate the contributions that have been made to our country and community by Hispanic Americas.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW SERRATTO, Mayor** of the City of Merced, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim September 15<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to be Hispanic Heritage Month.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

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*Matthew Serratto, Mayor of Merced*