



# *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,** The Central Valley is rich with Hispanic and Latino cultures. The City of Merced is made up of 49.6% Hispanics. UC Merced is designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, their student body is made up of 54.7% Hispanics; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Merced County Hispanic Chamber will host an Inaugural Celebrando Nuestra Cultura celebration showcasing Hispanic artisan crafts, food and music. The goal of this event is to connect students and residents with the Hispanic culture and traditions. This event is organized by the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Building Healthy Communities, United Way and MercadoLatinX209.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, 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> 2019 to be Hispanic Heritage Month.

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019.

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*Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced*