

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our country's Latinx heritage reaches back more than five centuries—when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, Latinx civilization was already established in what is now Florida and the Caribbean, as well as other parts of our continent; and

WHEREAS, since that time, Latinx residents have been a consistent and vital influence in the history and culture of the United States, Washington State, and King County; and

WHEREAS, September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration for Latinx Heritage Month because it is the anniversary of the 1821 independence declarations in five Latin American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua), and Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their independence days on September 16, September 18, and September 21, respectively; and

WHEREAS, people of Latinx ancestry make up about 17 percent of our nation's total population, and approximately 9.8 percent of the population of King County; and

WHEREAS, due to a long history of structural racism – ranging from housing policies to discrimination in health care and more -- data from the CDC on the coronavirus pandemic show Latinx people as four times more likely to be hospitalized than white-identified people; and

WHEREAS, data from Public Health Seattle/King County in early October 2020 showed the Hispanic/Latinx community in King County represented 27.7% of all confirmed COVID-19 cases, despite representing 10% of the overall population in the region; and

WHEREAS, the cultural, economic, and political influences of Latinx in King County and the Northwest can be seen and appreciated in all aspects of life—from workers, educators, and elected officials, to gifted artists and musicians, to the struggles of farm workers for fair housing and wages, to thriving businesses and important community organizations; and

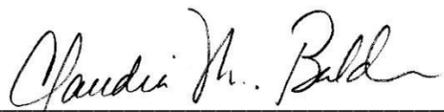
WHEREAS, across all walks of life, Latinx residents continue to be a vital part of the cultural, economic, and political life of our region, and young people of Latinx ancestry continue to invest in this region with their talents and ideals, making our community more rich and forward thinking;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim September 15 to October 15, 2019, as

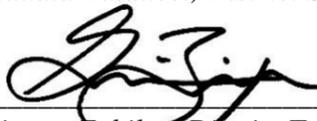
LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

in King County and encourage all county residents to join us in celebrating the many contributions people of Latinx heritage bring to our community.

DATED this thirteenth day of October, 2020.



Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair



Girmay Zahilay, District Two



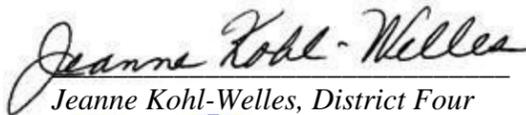
Dave Upthegrove, District Five



Joe McDermott, District Eight, Council Vice Chair



Rod Dembowski, District One



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, District Nine, Council Vice Chair

