

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Hispanic Heritage Month, first observed in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson and expanded to cover a 30-day period under President Ronald Reagan in 1988, celebrates the history, culture, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America; and*

WHEREAS, *this 30-day period, lasting from September 15 to October 15, has a significant start date in that it is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; additionally Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their independence during September; and*

WHEREAS, *Hispanic culture and customs have become a central part of American life including varying musical styles, food, a strong work ethic, and love of family; many Hispanic immigrants have given up their homes, possessions, and family connections to begin a new life in this country; and*

WHEREAS, *strong Hispanic influences can be seen throughout Allegheny County with approximately 19,070 individuals claiming Hispanic heritage, a 70.79% increase from the 2000 U.S. Census; we are proud of this Hispanic population and are thankful for the diversity and culture that they have brought to our region; and*

WHEREAS, *the theme of this year's recognition is "Hispanic Americans: Energizing Our Nation's Diversity" and it invites all Americans to reflect on Hispanic American's vitality and meaningful legacy in our Nation's cultural framework; Allegheny County is thankful to have the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in our community, for all the organization has done for our residents and the Hispanic community, and for their championing of Heritage Month;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim September 15 – October 15, 2015 as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Allegheny County.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 19th day of September, 2015.*

Rich Fitzgerald

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