

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 that 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 the Hispanic population and are thankful for the diversity and culture that they have brought to our region; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation is hosting its second annual Kennywood Latino Day, organized by Alberto Benzaquen, on September 14 to celebrate the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month; we are grateful for the leadership and involvement of this and other organizations, which have had a significant impact in our region;*

**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, 2014 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

Rich Fitzgerald