



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

KATHERINE W. LEWIS
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

**IN CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVE #1-23/24**

District One
JOCELYN E. LEIGHTON

District Two
KATHERINE W. LEWIS

District Three
MISHA C. PRIDE

District Four
LINDA C. COHEN

District Five
DEQA DHALAC

At Large
RICHARD T. MATTHEWS

At Large
NATALIE E. WEST

RESOLUTION HONORING NATIONAL HISPANIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Our country observes National Hispanic Heritage Month every year from September 15 through October 15. During this period, the people of South Portland are called upon to recognize and celebrate the many significant accomplishments and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans; and

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month has been celebrated in the United States for more than 30 years. The observance began in 1968 as a one-week celebration called Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, the United States Government designated the “31-day period beginning September 15 and ending on October 15” as National Hispanic Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the annual celebration honoring Americans of Hispanic descent because it marks the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The period holds additional significance as Mexico and Chile celebrate their annual independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Today, National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationwide at local festivals, art shows, community gatherings, and other events emphasizing the rich history, culture, and traditions of Hispanics and Latinos; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos have played a vital role during the COVID-19 pandemic as scientists working in labs across the country on a vaccine to fight the virus, as doctors and healthcare workers

working long hours to save lives, and on the frontline as essential workers who are keeping our City and Nation running; and

WHEREAS During National Hispanic Heritage Month, many Hispanic and Latino Americans who have answered the call to serve in the United States Armed Forces have earned military honors. Sixty-one people of Hispanic or Latino descent have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest United States military decoration awarded by the President of the United States, in the name of the United States Congress, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS According to US Census data, South Portland has the largest population of Hispanics and Latinos in the state of Maine; and

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month provides the people of our city with an opportunity to reflect on our shared history and to celebrate the rich mosaic of people and cultures that have built and strengthened our Nation and that have contributed to a legacy of freedom and diversity that we cherish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of South Portland, Maine, encourage all people in our city to acknowledge the contributions of Hispanics and Latinos to the vibrant culture, identity, and economy of our great City and Country; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, as part of this year's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, the City of South Portland honors our City's Hispanic and Latino essential workers, who persisted amid an unprecedented pandemic to help their communities. These essential workers include healthcare workers, grocery store clerks, food service workers, first responders, custodians, domestic workers, educators, activists, and many others who ensured that their family and communities were informed, protected, and provided with appropriate resources during this ongoing national health crisis.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000

Date: October 10, 2023