

PROCLAMATION

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

ANNUALLY ON SEPTEMBER 15TH – OCTOBER 15TH

WHEREAS, The Village of Oak Park observe Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th by recognizing and celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, September 15th is significant as a starting date for Latino Heritage Month because it is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on September 16th and September 18th respectively, and Indigenous Peoples' Day, or Día de La Raza, which is October 12th, falls within this 30-day period; and

WHEREAS, Latino/Latinx are individuals that are descendants from Latin American countries and may speak a variety of different languages and dialects. Hispanics are individuals that speak Spanish and are descendants from Spanish speaking countries, including Spain. Latinx is a gender neutral or non-binary term for people of Latin American descent, and we recognize the Latinx identity also encompasses people in Black/African, Asian, Indigenous, and Queer communities; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics, Latinos and Latinx have and continue to serve as Civil Rights leaders, educators, public servants, business owners, activists, artists, colleagues, friends, and much more in our community and across the world; and their values—service to others, non-violence, acceptance of all people, respect for life and the environment, and celebrating community—are also America's values; and

WHEREAS, during National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate Hispanic, Latino and Latinx culture, honor the invaluable ways Hispanic, Latino and Latinx individuals contribute to our common goals, and work toward a stronger, more inclusive, more prosperous society for all; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park is a community with a significant population of Hispanic and Latino descendants, who enhance the rich diversity of our community, it is appropriate for our community to celebrate this historic event and to deepen and strengthen our cultural ties; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park has planned many new events to honor and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The celebrations will commence with notable Latinx activist, writer, and speaker Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez as our Keynote Speaker. There will also be a round table discussions on the Latinx experiences, a language access listening session, ¡Viva! a festival with cultural performances, food, art and music, and an outdoor movie showing of *Encanto* to conclude the festivities.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Oak Park supports the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the Village of Oak Park shall recognize September 15, 2023 through October 15, 2023 and each year thereafter as ***HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH*** in the Village of Oak Park, and encourage all community members to recognize the significance of Hispanic Heritage and join us in celebration.

DATED this 11th day of September 2023.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk