

PROCLAMATION

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Annually 15th of September – 15th of October

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park observes 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 a significant start date for Latino Heritage Month as the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on September 16th and September 18th respectively; and Indigenous Peoples' Day, or Día de La Raza, falls within this month on October 12th; and

WHEREAS, Latino/Latinx are descendants from Latin American countries who speak a variety of different languages and dialects and Hispanics 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 served and continue to lead 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 and it is the responsibility of our community to celebrate this historic event to deepen and strengthen our cultural ties; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park has planned a special event to honor and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month—the ¡Viva! Celebration, a festival with cultural performances, food, art, and music, which will be held on September 28th to conclude the month's festivities; and

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 15th through October 15th as Hispanic Heritage Month in the Village of Oak Park and encourage all community members to recognize the significance of Hispanic Heritage Month and join us in celebration.

DATED this 16th day of September 2024.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk