



**King County**

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# PROCLAMATION

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**WHEREAS**, about 59 million people of Latinx ancestry live in the U.S., or 18.3 percent of the population of 327 million; the King County figure is 200,500, or 9.5 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, Latino residents have been a consistent, vital influence in King County history, and we name our commemoration “Latinx” Heritage Month to be more inclusive of the experiences and identities of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, while Latinx stewardship and contributions to these lands predate the founding of the U.S., these same communities – including the newest arrivals – are under great threat from xenophobia, racism, and the current federal administration; and

**WHEREAS**, People who identify as Latinx are four times more likely to be hospitalized than White people, according to CDC data on the coronavirus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, King County is a Welcoming Community that has stepped up its unwavering support for immigrants and refugees, whether through our Legal Defense Fund, our Immigrant and Refugee Commission, or many other efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, September 15 is the starting point for Latinx Heritage Month as the anniversary of 1821 independence declarations in five Latin American countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua – and Mexico, Chile and Belize celebrate their independence on Sept. 16, Sept. 18, and Sept. 21, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the cultural, educational and political influences of Latinx residents can be appreciated in all aspects of our life: from farm worker organizing for housing and equal wages, to incredible, gifted artists, to vibrant businesses, to music and community festivals; and

**CONSIDERANDO QUE**, el condado de King está firmemente comprometido a enfrentar los problemas de vital importancia para la comunidad latina y abrir puertas de oportunidad para todos en nuestro condado.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dow Constantine, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim the month from September 15 to October 15, 2020 to be

## **Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month**

in King County. I urge all residents to join in this community celebration.



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive