

Genesee County Resolution #2025-2077

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2025 AS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN GENESEE COUNTY

WHEREAS, beginning in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson, the United States observed Hispanic Heritage Week, which was expanded to National Hispanic Heritage Month under President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and has been celebrated each year

since from September 15 to October 15; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month serves to honor the culture and contributions of Americans whose roots include twenty primarily Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries throughout the Americas, many of which mark their independence from colonial Spain on September 15, 16, or 18; and

WHEREAS, Latinx/Hispanic-American people have made significant contributions to the history, art, economy, civil society, and military of the United States and that prior to the Mexican-American War, all or part of present-day Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming, and California were part of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Latinx/Hispanic-American residents of Genesee County are a vibrant and valued part of our community who have helped revitalize neighborhoods, start small businesses, and contribute through cultural, educational, and social leadership across Genesee County; and

whereas, the Latinx Technology and Community Center serves as a hub for Latinx families, providing resources that support education, workforce development, and cultural enrichment through programs focused on bridging the digital divide by offering technology access and training, supporting youth empowerment and leadership development, and partnering with schools, nonprofits, businesses, and government agencies to ensure equitable access to services; and

whereas, the local branch of the American GI Forum (a congressionally-chartered Hispanic veteran and civil rights organization), led by advocates including Domingo Berlanga, Hector Garcia, and Sixto Olivo, championed the establishment of the Latinx Technology and Community Center, which today is led by Asa Zuccaro, who continues to be a strong voice for equity and cross-cultural collaboration in Genesee County, and Jose Lopez, a community organizer and mentor who leads

outreach efforts that connect Latinx residents to essential services and civic opportunities; and

whereas, cultural groups such as El Ballet Folklórico Estudiantíl, a dance and mariachi group led by Sue Quintanilla, are dedicated to increasing self-confidence and leadership for youth through education, practice of cultural heritage, values, arts and performance of Mexican traditions enrich our Genesee County community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Genesee County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the month of September 15 to October 15, 2025, as Hispanic Heritage Month in Genesee County and encourages all county departments to engage in celebratory activities and appropriate recognitions, such as participation in community events, sharing stories, and learning about Latinx/Hispanic-Americans and the contributions they have made to our county and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Genesee County Clerk/Register is directed to provide one copy of this Resolution to each city, village, and township within Genesee County and to each County Clerk in the State of Michigan.

MOVED: Weighill SECONDED: Avery

VOTE: 8 YEAS,

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O ABSTENTIONS,

1 ABSENT

Resolution adopted this 20th day of August, 2025.

Domonique Clemons, Genesee County Clerk-Register of Deeds

State of Michigan County of Genese

I, DOMONIQUE CLEMONS, County Clerk and Register of Deeds of the County of Genesee, Michigan, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, and Clerk of the Circuit Court for said County, do hereby certify that the above is a true and complete copy of Resolution 2025-2077 with original record thereof now remaining in my office,

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of said Court and County, this 25th day of September A.D. 2025.

DOMONIQUE CLEMONS, Clerk-Register