

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

OCTOBER 5, 2021

Recognizing Second District Hispanic Heritage Month Honorees

On September 15, 2021, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to proclaim September 15 to October 15, 2021 as Hispanic Heritage Month in Los Angeles County (County). With nearly 49% of County residents identifying as Hispanic/Latino, this celebration of Hispanic and Latino heritage, which began in the late 1960's as Hispanic Heritage Week, has become an integral part of the County's cultural and historical fabric.

This year, the Second Supervisorial District is proud to honor individuals and organizations that are dedicated to serving Latino communities, and which truly stepped up during the pandemic to assist members of the community during these difficult times.

Mario Chavez, Director of Government Affairs and Community Outreach for St. John's Well Child and Family Center, has been a tremendous partner to the County as we ensure that our residents have access to COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites. Additionally, he has made tremendous efforts to provide residents of the Latino community, culturally competent information to ease any worries or concerns around pandemic health services. With his support, residents of the Second District have been able to receive vaccinations in their own communities.

Stephany Santin is currently the Director of Recreation and Human Services in the City of Gardena. Stephany deserves recognition because of her exceptional accomplishments at work, leadership in the COVID-19 relief efforts, and success to increase Spanish-language constituent outreach. Even with a reduced staff, she was able

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to lead her department to host over 60 events which provided food, safety supplies, and other necessities to help families in Gardena during the pandemic. In 2020, her department packed over 136,400 delivery meals for seniors, and later scheduled over 600 COVID-19 vaccinations for local residents. On top of pandemic relief efforts, Stephany helped lead numerous holiday and family programs with safe-distancing measures, so that residents could feel close to normalcy. Stephany's work ethic and diligence are recognized by many residents, government employees, and partners.

Carlito's Tires and Auto Repair has been an institution in the Florence-Firestone community for decades. The Quinonez family, in particular Steve Quinonez, have supported their community and neighboring areas for years by organizing food distributions, back-to-school giveaways, and much more at various events; they took the concept of community support to another level during the pandemic. Most recently, Steve established a space across the street from the tire shop that now serves as a community center where residents can come to learn about their local government, get connected to available resources, and have access to household and pandemic essentials.

Marco Sarmiento, of Peruvian origin, is a dedicated soccer coach at Rosecrans Recreation Center Park. For the last five years, he has coached youth soccer for ages 7 to 12 in Gardena and Long Beach. He trains and guides over 30 youth and often uses his own funds to pay for game fees and supplies. Marco has connected with local community programs to benefit youth and find more opportunities for them. Recently, he worked with Gardena Church Cantico Nuevo to obtain free backpacks and other useful items for the community. His commitment and selfless sacrifice for his students is remarkable.

Xochil Ramirez is a Youth Program Organizer with Roots for Peace, Los Angeles and is in the process of completing their last year at UC Riverside. As a long-time resident of South Central Los Angeles, they are involved with the All Peoples Community Farm where they and other local residents have been able to grow their own food, learn about farming strategies, and create space to deal with the mental toll the pandemic has had on the South Central community. Xochil helps facilitate programming here with other community leaders and has a very deep understanding of the importance of fresh produce for communities in South Central.

While the pandemic has brought upon many challenges to residents in the Second District, these community leaders and businesses have demonstrated the importance of supporting one another as we navigate through these difficult times. Their service to Los Angeles, and in particular the Latino community, is something to be recognized, honored and celebrated this Hispanic Heritage Month.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month in Los Angeles County, (County) acknowledge and recognize the contributions of Mario Chavez, Stephany Santin, Carlito's Tires and Auto Repair, Marco Sarmiento, and Xochil Ramirez, for their service and dedication to the Hispanic and Latino communities in the Second Supervisorial District; and
2. Encourage all County residents to learn more about Hispanic/Latino heritage by accessing resources available through the County's Public Library and other library systems, as well as <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>.

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(GC/SL)