

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

September 27, 2022

**Proclaiming Hispanic Heritage Month in Los Angeles County**

National Hispanic American Heritage Month has been celebrated for decades to recognize the many accomplishments made by the Hispanic community in the United States of America. Hispanic Heritage Week was first proclaimed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 but was established by legislation that was sponsored by Los Angeles' Congressman Edward R. Roybal. In 1988, President Regan expanded it to Hispanic Heritage Month and it has since been proclaimed annually.

Today, over 60 million people of Hispanic and Latino origin are in the United States. This makes up nearly 18% of the American population. As a nation, we honor the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Hispanic and Latino origins from September 15 to October 15 every year. The County of Los Angeles will continue its tradition of recognizing the contributions and achievements made by the Hispanic community, who makes up almost 49% of the County's population.

This year, the First District honors several organizations that are committed to

**MOTION**

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building a brighter future for generations to come.

Mariscos Martin, owned by the Robledo Family, is a fine example of a resilient, loyal, and emblematic business in the La Puente community. Operated by several generations of the family, the restaurant survived the pandemic by reinforcing the importance of customer service and relations. The quality and quantity of their food never changed. Several of their employees have been working at the restaurant for decades exemplifying the richness of loyalty of the family. The Robledo family story is the classic story of the immigrant family that came to this country to provide for their growing family, create a space for the emerging immigrant community in the San Gabriel Valley, and showcase the regional cuisine of their homeland, Mexico, to the local community. Mariscos Martin is the American dream in full color and flavor.

The Goddess Mercado organizes, empowers, uplifts, and promotes entrepreneurship within our underrepresented Latin women, youth, and queer communities. Created by 14 local women in the unincorporated community of City Terrace in April 2021, The Goddess Mercado has created a safe space where local creators, artists, healers, and small businesses from the Eastside can sell their crafts and perform. On the Second Saturday of every month, over 70 vendors take up space in the parking lot of the Hilda L. Solis Learning Academy. It is a community that promotes entrepreneurship and creativity. The Goddess Mercado gave birth to The Queer Mercado in July 2021 and The Goddess Mercado Boutique in October 2021.

El Proyecto del Barrio has provided an extensive array of health and medical, employment, behavioral health, and child development services to the community for more than 50 years. Founded in 1971 to provide services to the Northeast San

Fernando Valley, El Proyecto del Barrio has expanded its services to the entire San Fernando Valley, the San Gabriel Valley, and East Los Angeles. The organization's legacy of success flows from its strategy of linking accessible and affordable health care services to underserved populations in the communities it serves, enhancing its ability to identify and help thousands of individuals and families that have not been reached by previous outreach efforts. The organization infuses culturally appropriate strategies with an affirmation of family values and traditions. This approach has established El Proyecto del Barrio as a trusted service provider that creates a safe and respectful environment for its clients. The organization has built a cherished "Pride in Excellence" in its "whole person" approach which has been honored both regionally and nationally.

Comunidades Indigenas en Liderazgo (CIELO) was founded by two Zapotec women, Odilia Romero and Janet Martinez in 2016. CIELO is an Indigenous women-led, intergenerational organization that is combating racism towards Indigenous people by bringing visibility and resources to the Indigenous migrant communities. CIELO creates substantive solutions to the social, economic, and cultural challenges faced by the Indigenous community. They work on language revitalization by creating new spaces of engagement with Indigenous languages for younger generations. An example of this work is Weaving Words and Rhymes; it celebrates Indigenous languages through music. CIELO also organized the first Indigenous literature conference by and for Indigenous communities in Los Angeles. They also recently worked with UCLA to create a map of indigenous communities in Los Angeles which was displayed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) as a companion to the exhibition, "Mixpantli: Space, Time, and the Indigenous Origins of Mexico." However, what I'm most proud of

is their partnership with my office in providing real-time Indigenous language interpretation to the unaccompanied children the County sheltered at the Emergency Intake Site within the Fairplex last year. It is with their help that 8,500 children were reunited with families and sponsors.

CultivaLA transforms healthy food access and wellness through people, social enterprise, and environmental justice. By engaging community urban agriculture through workforce development, intergenerational learning, and agricultural literacy, CultivaLA brings together local growers to transform the urban agriculture movement in Los Angeles County. With 32 active 'cultiva-dores' they grow and supply fresh organic herbs (e.g. mint, basil, papalo, cilantro, etc.) and vegetables to individuals and families, as well as to the community through their innovative Free Mercado Al Aire Libre (FREE Farmers' Market) in Westlake. With the support of my office, CultivaLA has also worked to empower communities in the San Gabriel Valley – opening a garden in Rosemead and a farm in South El Monte – and is in the works to open another farm in East Los Angeles. Their experience as farmers is valued and seen as a strength, as they help to cultivate community workforce development, mentorship, and entrepreneurship for youth and adults.

May we recognize the numerous contributions of these organizations, made up of people from diverse Hispanic and Latino cultures, this month, and all year round.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim September 15 to October 15, 2022, as Hispanic Heritage Month in Los Angeles County, and acknowledge Mariscos Martin, The Goddess Mercado, El Proyecto del Barrio, CIELO,

and CultivaLA for their selfless contributions.

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