AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Proclaiming Hispanic Heritage Month 2026: Recognizing Hispanic and Latino History as American History

Hispanic Heritage Month, observed from September 15 to October 15, recognizes the history, culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. In Los Angeles County, nearly half of the population is Hispanic or Latino. The County is home to one of the largest and most diverse Latino populations in the country, with deep roots in Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

The observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson and was expanded to a month in 1988. September 15 marks the independence anniversaries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico celebrates its independence on September 16, followed by Chile on September 18.

For generations, Hispanic and Latino Angelenos have helped build Los Angeles County. Farmworkers have fed families across the nation, workers have organized for better wages and working conditions, immigrants have built businesses, educators have taught our children, health care workers have cared for our families, and artists, public servants and community leaders have strengthened our civic and cultural life. Nearly 2

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million Latino immigrants call Los Angeles County home, including an estimated 795,000 who are undocumented. Their labor is essential to the County's economy, with undocumented workers alone generating an estimated $253.9 billion in economic output and supporting more than 1.06 million jobs.[1]

This year's observance comes after more than a year of aggressive federal immigration enforcement under the Trump administration. Since enforcement operations began in Los Angeles in June 2025, federal agents have carried out workplace raids, arrests and large-scale operations resulting in detention and deportation, disrupting families, workplaces and businesses across the region. The consequences have been significant. A report by the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity and Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation found that 82% of businesses surveyed reported negative impacts from immigration enforcement, 70% experienced staffing shortages and 33% reported that workers were afraid to report to work.

The administration has also moved to terminate Temporary Protected Status for people from several countries, including El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. For families who have lived and worked in Los Angeles County for years, the loss of these protections can mean losing work authorization and protection from removal. These

[1] Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity and Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, *Economic Impacts of Federal Immigration Enforcement in Los Angeles County*, February 2026, p. 52.

changes have added another layer of uncertainty for families who have built their lives and raised their children here.

Los Angeles County has responded by expanding immigration legal services, supporting affected workers and small businesses, protecting access to County services and working with community organizations to help residents understand and exercise their rights. These efforts recognize the essential role immigrant families and workers play in the County and the importance of ensuring that federal enforcement does not prevent residents from accessing essential services and resources.

However, the consequences of these policies extend beyond immigration enforcement itself. Questions about Latino history and representation have also reached the institutions responsible for telling the American story. At a July 21, 2026, congressional hearing on the Smithsonian, a member of Congress questioned the director of the National Museum of American History about merchandise bearing the words “Latina Power” and whether the Smithsonian should sell it. The exchange placed a phrase celebrating Latinas and their contributions at the center of a broader debate over how American history is presented and whose stories are recognized in the nation’s public institutions.

The history of Hispanic and Latino communities is inseparable from the history of Los Angeles County and the nation. Hispanic Heritage Month gives us an opportunity to recognize the generations who built their lives here, the contributions they continue to

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make and the history they have carried forward. At a time when many Latino families are facing profound uncertainty, this recognition matters.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim September 15 to October 15, 2026, as Hispanic Heritage Month in Los Angeles County, recognizing the generations of Hispanic and Latino Angelenos whose contributions have helped shape the County's history and identity.
2. Waive parking fees in the amount of $5,000 for 250 vehicles at Lot 14, excluding the cost of liability insurance, on Friday, September 18, 2026, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., for community members attending the First District's Hispanic Heritage Month Reception.

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