



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Karen Howard, Chair
Mike Dasher, Vice Chair
David Delaney
Katie Kenlan
Franklin Gomez Flores

COUNTY MANAGER

Dan LaMontagne

P. O. Box 1809, Pittsboro, NC 27312-1809 • Phone: (919) 542-8200

Chatham County Board of Commissioners Proclamation

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationwide from September 15th through October 15th each year. The observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson, and expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover the month as it is celebrated today. It calls upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this time with ceremonies, activities, and programs; and

WHEREAS, September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Belize, celebrate their independence days on September 7th, 16th, 18th and 21st respectively. Therefore, the observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the culture and traditions of people whose ancestry can be traced to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean islands; and

WHEREAS, Latinxs are individuals that are descendants from Latin American countries and may speak a variety of different languages. Hispanics are individuals that speak Spanish and are descendants from Spanish speaking countries, including Spain. Latinx is a gender-neutral and inclusive term to refer to people of Latin American descent, and we also recognize that the Latinx identity encompasses Black/African, Asian, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau counted 10,372 Hispanic and Latinx residents in Chatham County out of 76,285 people, or about 13.6% of the county's population. In Siler City, nearly 47% of residents identified as Hispanic/Latinx, while about 10.7% of Pittsboro's residents are Hispanic/Latinx.

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners recognizes the unique and vital role that Hispanic/Latinx residents play in our social tapestry, culture, economy, workforce, as well as our faith communities; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic Liaison will be celebrating the rich cultural traditions of the Hispanic/Latinx community of Chatham County at its 10th Hispanic Heritage Fiesta on Saturday, September 16th in downtown Siler City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims September 15th through October 15th as Hispanic Heritage Month in Chatham County and urge its residents to participate in activities to learn more about our Hispanic/Latinx neighbors and their cultures.

Adopted, this the ____ day of August 2023.

Karen Howard, Chair

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray, NCMCC, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners