

PROCLAMATION 2023-05-PT

Recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE: OS-5

WHEREAS, the Port of Tacoma has adopted a Diversity and Inclusion Policy which declares the Port respects and values the rich diversity of its employees, customers, contractors and stakeholders and that it is committed to a work environment that is inclusive and values diverse thought and expression in pursuit of the organization's mission and is committed to provide a workplace environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment; and

WHEREAS, Port of Tacoma Resolution 2020-06-PT identifies diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values that the Port of Tacoma shall incorporate into its Strategic Plan and into Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Port of Tacoma Resolution 2020-06-PT adopts the following guiding principles as the basis for the Port of Tacoma's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives: undoing and understanding the history of racism, embracing differences, and developing leadership; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2021, the Port of Tacoma Commission approved a new strategic plan, which contained strategies calling on the Port to integrate the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as health and safety, into the Port's culture and decision-making framework; and

WHEREAS, in honor of over 500 years of Hispanic cultural contributions and in recognition of its evolution into the future and the continuation of the culture; and

WHEREAS, in recognition that Hispanics in the New World descended from Native Americans whose indigenous civilizations developed and thrived thousands of years before Christopher Columbus reached the Americas; and

WHEREAS, they joined with Europeans and Africans over five centuries to create a people unique to the New World to reflect the joining of races and cultures; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics continue to enrich Pierce County and Washington state communities with the cultural, educational, and political influences of their culture and can be seen and appreciated in all aspects of our life, from farmworker struggles for housing and equal wages, to incredible and gifted artists, professionals, vibrant businesses, music, and community festivals; and

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month was created to showcase and highlight Hispanic contributions throughout our nation and as a reminder that Hispanics have been part of the history of this nation since the beginning; and

WHEREAS, 12 percent of the population residing in the Port of Tacoma port district are of Hispanic descent; and

WHEREAS, nearly 63 million Hispanic Americans live in the United States and through their actions, make America a more vibrant, prosperous, and secure nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Port of Tacoma recognizes September 15, 2023, through October 15, 2023, as National Hispanic Heritage Month and calls upon the people of Pierce County to recognize the achievements of the Hispanic/Latino community and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the Port of Tacoma on this 19th day of September in the year two-thousand and twenty-three.

Deanna M. Keller, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

John McCarthy, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission