PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, September 15-October 15 is recognized as National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is a time to honor the invaluable ways Latinos contribute to our nation's economy and growth, celebrate their diverse cultures, and to work towards a stronger, more inclusive, and more prosperous society for all; and

WHEREAS, Latinos are individuals living in the United States whose ancestors originate from the Caribbean Islands, Central America, Mexico, and South America, and many trace their roots to the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas (including the Arawaks, the Aztecs, the Incas, the Maya, and the Tainos), the European colonization, or to the Africans who were brought as slaves to the New World; and

WHEREAS, Latinos speak multiple languages such as Creole, English, French, Indigenous languages and dialects, Portuguese, and Spanish, and the term Hispanic refers to Latinos in the United States whose ancestors originate from countries where Spanish is the primary language; and

WHEREAS, We honor the enriching history and invaluable contribution of Latinos in Des Moines, Iowa since before statehood - we are recognizing the history and countless contributions that Latino-Iowans have made over the years to the nation, state, and to our great City; and

WHEREAS, 5,000 years of rich culture and continuous settling of Latino roots now represent a significant and fast-growing demographic of the City being 13.6% of the population with the promise of continuing to be the fastest and biggest growing ethnic group.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE RESIDENTS OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021, AS:

"LATINO HERITAGE MONTH"

AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS TO CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSE HERITAGE AND CULTURE AND CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO CREATE A WORLD THAT IS MORE JUST, COMPASSIONATE, AND EQUITABLE FOR ALL.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREBY SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS THIRTEENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.

T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR
CITY OF DES MOINES