

Legislation Text

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Designating September 23, 2022 as “Multilingual Freedom Day in Latin America” in recognition of the annual “Latin America Book Fair” event.

WHEREAS, The first-ever “Latin America Book Fair in Philadelphia” event was held in the courtyard of the Philadelphia City Hall in 2019 with the support of community organizations, local authors, media publications, public schools, universities, and the general public; and

WHEREAS, Held during the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Latin American Book Fair promotes cultural exchanges and honors the literary traditions of Spanish authors, publishers, editors and artists; and

WHEREAS, In addition to showcasing literary works, the event promotes small businesses and independent artists - from local restaurants, vendors, and performers - to promote Latin food, culture and traditions; and

WHEREAS, According to the latest census, Hispanics make up 15.2% of Philadelphia’s diverse population. It is vital for new generations to see themselves and their culture reflected in literature, art, and community gatherings; reading is a powerful tool that fosters creativity and independence; and

WHEREAS, This year’s Latin American Book Fair will be held at Love Park with more than 50 local authors, 10 international authors from Colombia and Mexico, and more than 25 community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Events like the Latin American Book Fair highlight the oral and written traditions of the more than eighteen countries that speak the Spanish language; it is critical for language, culture and traditions to be passed down to new generations and promote Philadelphia has a hub for diversity and multicultural inclusion; and

WHEREAS, In support of this mission, the City of Philadelphia is pleased to designate September 23, 2022 as the “Multilingual Freedom Day in Latin America”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADLEPHIA, That it hereby designates September 23, 2022 as “Multilingual Freedom Day in Latin America” in recognition of the annual “Latin America Book Fair” event.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That and Engrossed copy be presented to Latin America Book Fair Committee, a coalition of Latin leaders behind the Latin America Book Fair Event, further evidencing the sincere respect and admiration of this legislative body.