File #: 250747, **Version:** 0

Recognizing and honoring distinguished Latino Leaders and Community Advocates in the City of Philadelphia during Hispanic Heritage Month.

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15 to recognize and honor the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors come from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia's Latino communities have long enriched the social, cultural, and economic fabric of our City, distinguishing themselves as business owners, educators, civic leaders, artists, and essential workers who build stronger neighborhoods and inspire future generations; and

WHEREAS, While the achievements and enduring legacy of Hispanic and Latino communities should be honored throughout the year, Hispanic Heritage Month offers a dedicated moment to celebrate their resilience, vibrancy, and immeasurable impact on the life of our City and the nation; and

WHEREAS, In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month 2025, the Council of the City of Philadelphia is proud to recognize local advocates, educators, artists, and leaders whose work in health and wellness, youth empowerment, education, and cultural preservation continue to uplift and empower Philadelphia's Latino communities; and

WHEREAS, Luis Hincapié exemplifies dedication to health equity, community-based physical therapy, education, and mentorship, uplifting Philadelphia's diverse populations. His service on local and state boards and his work as founder of Fortaleza Physical Therapy reflect his unwavering commitment to building a healthier, more equitable City for all; and

WHEREAS, Sister Ana Iris Graña has devoted her life to bilingual education, technological literacy, and service to Latino communities, fostering inclusion and opportunity. Through her work at the IHM Center for Literacy, Sister Ana has empowered hundreds of adult learners with digital tools and language skills that open doors to opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Maridarlyn "Mari" Gonzalez uses data-driven research and civic leadership to advance equitable urban development and community empowerment. Her service on local boards, leadership in the Urban Land Institute, as well as her presidency of The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in Philadelphia demonstrates her deep commitment to inclusive community planning and youth engagement; and

WHEREAS, Nilda L. Pimentel-Perez's leadership in affordable housing, food security, and neighborhood

advocacy has strengthened Philadelphia's civic fabric. Her decades-long career in public service, strategic communications, and grassroots organizing continue to amplify the voices of underserved communities across the City; and

WHEREAS, Erikka Goslin, through her social work and leadership at Taller Puertorriqueño, champions Puerto Rican arts and cultural heritage as tools for healing and justice. Under her leadership, Taller Puertorriqueño has expanded its reach, offering transformative youth programming and community-centered arts education that fosters identity, belonging, and pride; and

WHEREAS, Rafael Alvarez Febo advances neighborhood revitalization, environmental stewardship, and LGBTQ+ equity through advocacy and community development at Esperanza.
His lifelong commitment to grassroots organizing, cultural empowerment, and equitable public investment reflects his vision for a just, thriving Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yonaira Rodriguez's leadership as an educator and principal exemplifies culturally responsible teaching, literacy, and family engagement in Philadelphia schools. Her visionary leadership at William Cramp Elementary, including the creation of the Ana V. Cruz Community Center, has transformed her alma mater into a hub of support and inclusion for students and families alike; and

WHEREAS, Maribel Lozada Arzuaga has committed decades to youth empowerment and cultural preservation through folkloric arts and community programs. As Executive Director of Centro Nueva Creación, Maribel continues to nurture resilience, cultural pride, and academic enrichment in the next generation of Philadelphia leaders; and

WHEREAS, Amy Eusebio's work as an immigrant advocate and strategist advances equity, inclusion, and trauma-informed care in public service and nonprofit sectors. Her leadership in launching the PHL City ID program and expanding immigrant inclusion citywide has created lasting infrastructure to support and uplift Philadelphia's immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, These nine distinguished individuals have made profound and lasting contributions to the City of Philadelphia and its communities, embodying the spirit of Hispanic Heritage Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes and honors distinguished Latino leaders and community advocates in the City of Philadelphia during Hispanic Heritage Month affirms our collective commitment to equity, cultural pride, and civic engagement, and inspires all Philadelphians to uplift the voices, histories, and contributions of Latino communities in every corner of our City.