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10-8-02**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, September 15 through October 15 of each year is Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month in the nation and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 Census shows that the population of Latino/Hispanic Alexandrians has increased 75% between 1990 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 Census, 18,882 Latino/Hispanic-Americans have made this City their home; and

WHEREAS, Latino/Hispanic-Americans have enriched our nation and our City's life with their values of hard work, strong faith and commitment to family; and

WHEREAS, the Latino/Hispanic Alexandrians originated from Spain, North America, Central America, South America, or the Caribbean, are of many races and different religions, and they find a common bond through the Spanish language that they share; and

WHEREAS, their diversity has brought to the City the richness of the many cultures that exist within the Latino/Hispanic community; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the work of the following volunteer, nonprofit and City government organizations to help improve the quality of life for Latino/Hispanics in Alexandria: Bienvenidos, Hispanic Committee of Virginia, Latin American Student Society, Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee, the City's Hispanic Orientation and Education Program, and the City's Multicultural Services Initiative;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2002, as:

"LATINO/HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria, and encourage all residents to celebrate the significant contributions of Latino/Hispanic Americans in the nation and in our City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8th day of October 2002.

KERRY J. DONLEY **MAYOR**

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk