

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, since 1988, September 15 through October 15 of each year has been declared nationally as Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month, a celebration dedicated to recognizing, understanding, and valuing Hispanic-Americans; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Hispanic Americans for helping to shape our national character and strengthen our communities through contributions in many professions and fields, including business, education, law, government, business, science, sports and the arts; and

WHEREAS, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States employ about 1.4 million Americans, carry payrolls of over \$30 billion and are estimated to see revenues surge seventy percent to more than \$465 billion by the end of this decade, indicating the increasingly vital role of Hispanic-owned firms in U.S. economic development and in the economic development of Alexandria; 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, we are reminded and educated about the diverse groups that make up our Latino/Hispanic population--through the celebration of their accomplishments and the splendid differences of their many dynamic cultures; and

WHEREAS, Latino/Hispanic Alexandrians originated from Spain, North America, Central America, South America, or the Caribbean, from many races and different religions, all bringing with them a deep commitment to family and community, a strong work ethic, and an unwavering belief in the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, the entrepreneurial spirits of Alexandrians of Hispanic heritage have increased the quality of life for Latino/Hispanics in Alexandria and include the tireless efforts of Alexandrians like Jose Merino, Hector Lobo, Armando Falcon, Tomas Lopez Machuca, German Mejia and Victorina Lopez;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15 as:

"LATINO/HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH"

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 11th day of October 2005.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE **MAYOR**
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC *City Clerk*