

**PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE TO FILE 15-2986
Consent Calendar Agenda 9/9/2015**

Sponsored by: LUIS ARROYO JR AND JESÚS G. GARCÍA, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, in September of 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed Public Law bill 90-498 into law, authorizing the President to designate the week of September 15th as “National Hispanic Heritage Week” in recognition of the extraordinary contributions Hispanics and Latino Americans had made, and in recognition of the anniversaries of some of the first Latin American countries to declare their independence; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos of every generation have made immense contributions to the defense of freedom at home and abroad through courageous service in the United States Military as well as contributions to the arts, education, mathematics, science, literature, technology and philanthropy in this county and the world;

WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos have contributed to Cook County’s social, political and economic development for over one hundred years and Hispanics and Latinos’ contributions began at the turn of the century when millions of Mexicans came to the United States to work in agriculture under the Federal Bracero Program and the numbers of Hispanics and Latino’s greatly expanded during World War II when Puerto Ricans and Mexicans began arriving in large numbers to work in the steel mills, stockyards and packinghouses helping to build Cook County into an industrial powerhouse;

WHEREAS, Cook County’s economy has always been a magnet for immigrant laborers from all over the world and immigrants from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America in particular and Cook County continues to welcome and value the contributions of immigrants;

WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos have contributed to historical school desegregation efforts in the United States of America, starting in the 1930’s in the State of Texas, that led to efforts in California, that culminated in the impactful decision made in the state of California in 1946 in Mendez v. Westminster School District; which paved the way for litigation in Texas and Arizona as well as for other populations of color by helping to develop the arguments for Brown v. Board of Education;

WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos continue to strive and excel in higher education, and continue to fight for the acceptance of immigrant students and the undocumented “DREAMERS” in institutions of higher learning, and continue to strive for equal treatment by the Federal Government on education financing;

WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos have made considerable strides in the electoral arena, and continue to be a growing force shaping the local and national discourse that has led to growing numbers in leadership at all levels;

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latino leaders in government at all levels have continued to shape the dialogue concerning the state and future of all Hispanics and Latinos, and continue to make their respective communities proud of their efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and board of the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby continue to celebrate September 15th through October 15th as NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN COOK COUNTY, and encourage all Cook County residents to partake in the many celebrations, festivities and activities in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.