



**PROCLAMATION
OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 – OCTOBER 15, 2021, AS
“LATIN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH”**

- WHEREAS,** Hispanic Heritage Month was originally observed in 1968 as “Hispanic Heritage Week” under President Lyndon Johnson, and was later extended to a month during President Ronald Reagan's term in 1988, and the terms Latino, Hispanic and Latinx are often used interchangeably to categorize those with ancestry from Spanish-speaking territories or who can trace their heritage to the original Indigenous communities of Latin America and Africa; and
- WHEREAS,** Tejano descendants of the first Spanish, Mexican, and Indigenous families in Texas are also considered the first families of Texas and lived in this area nearly 150 years prior to the Texas Revolution, creating the area’s first missions, towns, governments, ranches, and roads; and
- WHEREAS,** A number of local Tejanos contributed to the development of our region, including Buda resident Jesse O. Villareal Sr., a ninth generation Tejano whose ancestors first came to Texas in 1707, Dripping Springs landowners Anacleto Duran and Adalaida Flores, who registered their marriage in 1879 in Hays County, and Victoriano Alba, owner of the former Alba Ranch northwest of Drippings Springs that was recently given a historic designation by the Texas Historical Commission; and
- WHEREAS,** Early examples of Tejanos and Tejanas promoting human rights, freedom of the press, and workers’ rights include those who acted as guides to help escaped slaves cross the Rio Grande River to Mexico, efforts such as those by Mexican-American journalist and suffragist Jovita Idár, who in 1914 single-handedly protected her newspaper headquarters and freedom of the press in Laredo, José Tomás (J.T.) Canales, the only Mexican American state representative in 1904 who later filed a bill in 1919 to prevent acts of violence by the Texas Rangers that largely targeted Mexican Americans, and Texas-born Maria Moreno, who was the first female farm worker in America to be hired as a union organizer in 1959 and helped improve working conditions and wages for workers in Texas and beyond; and
- WHEREAS:** Recent census data indicates that persons of Latin American heritage account for 51.1 percent of the country’s population growth, including the 11,441,717 who call Texas home; and
- WHEREAS:** Texas without Mexicans would not be Texas; the original Texas cowboys were the vaqueros (cow men) of Indigenous and North African-Spanish ancestry, and those of Latin American heritage have contributed to its creation, ongoing development, and even its own ‘Tejano’ music genre.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the City Council of Dripping Springs, Texas:

1. Wednesday, September 15, 2021, thru Friday, October 15, 2021, will be recognized as “Latin American Heritage Month 2021” in the City of Dripping Springs; and
2. The City Council invites our citizens to increase their awareness of the under-told legacy of contributions made by residents of Latin American origins in Texas and in our nation.

Bill Foulds, Jr., Mayor