

**P R O C L A M A T I O N**

**LATINO HERITAGE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, California embraces and celebrates its diversity, and that includes the largest ethnic group in the State – 15.7 million Latinos call California home; and

**WHEREAS**, 35% of Fort Bragg’s population identifies as Latino; and

**WHEREAS**, 43% of our school district student population is of Latino descent; and

**WHEREAS**, Latino Californians are a diverse group with roots stretching throughout North, Central, and South America, and many trace their heritage to the original Indigenous communities of Latin America and Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, the Latino community is a dynamic, valued part of our City and a vital contributor to our economy, with an entrepreneurial spirit, a strong work ethic, and an unwavering belief in the American dream; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize and are grateful to our Latino citizens who helped keep our neighborhoods, communities, and State vibrant and prosperous. They are our teachers, business owners, scientists, soldiers, farmworkers, first responders, artists, activists, colleagues, friends; and

**WHEREAS**, this month, we honor the heritage of all Latinos in the State and celebrate the Independence Days of our neighbors Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Chile, Nicaragua, and Belize; and

**WHEREAS**, this year the Hispanic Heritage theme is “Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America,” reminding us that prosperity and progress in our communities make us better; and

**WHEREAS**, celebrating Latino Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 allows us to appreciate and validate the diversity and character of our community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bernie Norvell**, Mayor of the City of Fort Bragg, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim September 15 - October 15, 2024, as Latino Heritage Month.

**SIGNED this 9th day of September, 2024**

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**BERNIE NORVELL, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**DIANA SANCHEZ, City Clerk**

