NATIONAL HISPANIC AND LATINO HERITAGE MONTH
SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2026

WHEREAS, in 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson established Hispanic Heritage Week, and in 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the observance to a 30-day period, now recognized as National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month; and,

WHEREAS, September 15 marks the beginning of National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month and recognizes the independence anniversaries of several Latin American countries; and,

WHEREAS, the Hispanic and Latino population in Buncombe County has grown significantly, with more than 25,000 residents who contribute to the cultural, economic, and civic life of our community; and,

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latino residents, families, workers, entrepreneurs, educators, community leaders, and organizations strengthen Buncombe County through their contributions to our community; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Sarah Nuñez, a Latina educator, business owner, organizer, cultural worker, healing justice practitioner, and community leader, has contributed to Buncombe County by strengthening community organizations, cultivating emerging leaders, and preserving cultural traditions of Latin American and diasporic communities; and,

WHEREAS, community members, including Sonia Kay, whose work supports youth and families and uplifts the Latino community through social work and her Ripple Podcast Studio, and Tamara Olmedo, owner and co-founder of Cuentos y Café, a local pop-up and online bookstore that highlights often-silenced voices and works to make resources more accessible to the Latino community; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County's art initiative purchased local artwork for the upcoming Swannanoa Small Area Plan, including Carolina Corona's painting "A Nice Place to Live," featuring a vibrant mountain landscape with scarlet bee balm flowers and a group of ruby-throated hummingbirds; and;

WHEREAS, through the Buncombe County community investment initiative, the Early Childhood Education and Development program has partnered with El Telar, an affiliate of Colaborativa La Milpa, to provide affordable, culturally relevant, home-based childcare for families; and

WHEREAS, local schools, community colleges, universities, workforce partners, and community organizations help create opportunities for Hispanic and Latino students and workers to pursue education, meaningful careers, and greater economic opportunity; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners proclaims **September 15 - October 15, 2026** as **National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month** in Buncombe County and encourages the community to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to our county, state, and nation.

This 15th day of September, 2026.

Amanda Edwards

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners