

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Hispanic Heritage Month Declaration**

SALT LAKE CITY - The State Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs and the Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council along with Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon and Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker are happy to announce the reading of the Hispanic Heritage Month Declarations on September 14, 2009 at 6 p.m. at Rico's on 545 West 700 South.

"For over 200 years, the contributions of Hispanics to the development and success of America are woven into almost every segment of our nation's history, said Carlos Linares, Chair of the Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council. Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the Latino contribution. We also recognize that America's cultural diversity—and the contributions of all its people—continue to strengthen the fabric of our country."

The State Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs and the Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council will also present the first ever Hispanic Heritage Month calendar. The calendar will include all the events happening during these key two months and provide a conduit for the community to get to know what's available during these months. The calendar can be found at [ethnicoffice.utah.gov](http://ethnicoffice.utah.gov)

Hispanic Heritage Month is the period to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. They all declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18; Puerto Rico celebrates El Grito de Lares on September 23.

For more information contact Silvia Thomas at 801.538.8758 or visit [www.ethnicoffice.utah.gov](http://www.ethnicoffice.utah.gov).

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