



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

President Lyndon B. Johnson established "Hispanic Heritage Week" in 1968; and

WHEREAS: President Ronald Reagan expanded the celebration in 1988 to cover a month-long period from September 15th through October 15th and declared it to be "National Hispanic Heritage Month" ; and

WHEREAS: During "National Hispanic Heritage Month" the contributions made to and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans in the United States and in our local communities and the Hispanic and Latino American heritage and cultures are honored; and

WHEREAS: The Ohio State University at Lima is undertaking an inaugural event to spotlight the National Hispanic Heritage Month for its students and faculty in order to bring appropriate attention to the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans in Northwest Ohio; and

WHEREAS: Baldemar Velasquez has been a champion of human rights since he was twenty, when Mr. Velasquez helped form the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) which brought about the first supply-chain agreements in labor history; and

WHEREAS: His leadership and humanitarian contributions have been recognized by many groups including the national Hispanic Heritage Award, the John T. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship, the Bannerman Fellowship and The Aguila Azteca Medal; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Velasquez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Bluffton College, continued his education in practical theology and has been ordained as a chaplain to farmworkers by Rapha Ministries. He has published numerous articles and collaborated on books that address the plight of migrant farmworkers. He is one example of many to be grateful that we live in a diverse community and we celebrate all contributions made by Hispanics that enrich our lives.

NOW THEREFORE: I, David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim September 15th thru October 15th as

Hispanic Heritage Month

in the City of Lima, Ohio and ask all citizens to learn about, acknowledge and applaud the generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans who have enriched our community and nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 30th day of September, 2016.



Signature of David J. Berger
DAVID J. BERGER, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO