



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, each year the National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15 in the United States to showcase and highlight the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to our nation's history, culture, and achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, the ancestry and vibrant traditions can be traced to Spain, the Caribbean Islands, Mexico, and Central and South America; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and in 1988, the observation was expanded to National Hispanic Month by President Ronald Reagan; and

**WHEREAS**, Hispanic explorers, pioneers and settlers established missions and settlements that became some of America's most important urban and cultural centers; and

**WHEREAS**, Hispanics have greatly enhanced our way of life in the fields of science, technology, politics, the arts, philanthropy, and other important areas, and continue to meet their challenges and responsibilities with dignity and a creative spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, Hispanic Americans throughout the nation, because of their energetic commitment to hard work and determination to participate fully in the American dream, provide strength and inspiration to us all; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ocala acknowledges the Hispanic Heritage and the indelible place it holds in the heart and soul of our Nation, and National Hispanic Heritage Month reminds us that the American identity is a fabric of diverse traditions and stories woven together.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ben Marciano**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby declare September 15 to October 15, 2024, as:

## NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

in Ocala, Florida, and I urge all citizens to increase their cultural awareness by learning and celebrating the important contributions of Hispanics in Ocala.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2024.



*Ben Marciano*

Ben Marciano, Mayor  
City of Ocala