

County of Erie Executive Chamber PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, the Buffalo and Erie County Library will host a commemorative event to launch Hispanic Heritage Month in Erie County; and
- WHEREAS,** each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America; and
- WHEREAS,** this month long celebration is designed to honor the influential impact Hispanics have had on our community; and
- WHEREAS,** the celebration of Hispanic Heritage started in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson as a weeklong observation and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15th and ending on October 15th; and
- WHEREAS,** September 15th was chosen because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and
- WHEREAS,** the Hispanic Community is the fastest growing minority group in the U.S; and
- WHEREAS,** the Hispanic population throughout Western New York is approximately 70,000 people with concentrations of the population residing in Buffalo's Lower West Side, South Buffalo, and Lackawanna; and
- WHEREAS,** this commemorative ceremony at the Buffalo and Erie County Library was made possible with help from Hispanics United of Buffalo, Medaille College, West Side Community Services, The Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, UNYTS, The Buffalo Public Schools, The Multilingual Education, The City of Buffalo Commission on Citizens Rights, The Father Belle Center, Los Tainos, El Buen Amigo, WNED TV Ch17, and The Puerto Rican Parade of Western New York; and
- WHEREAS,** the opening ceremony is designed to raise public awareness about the richness and diversity of Latin American culture as well as encourage area residents to participate in the variety of Hispanic heritage events during Hispanic Heritage Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS COLLINS, Erie County Executive, do hereby declare **September 15, 2010** through **October 15, 2010**

"Hispanic Heritage Month"

In this Majestic County of Erie, of the Great State of New York, The Empire State, a cordial expression of esteem.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I
have caused to be affixed the
seal of the County of Erie,
this 15th day of September, 2010

Chris Collins

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive