

The City of Holland, Michigan



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) is a Latino/Latina organization formed in 1964 by founders Lupita and Tino Reyes, Juan Vasquez, Gilberto Marroquin, Sr., and Raymond Gutierrez; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate another year of growth and partnerships within the community to bring services that include Spanish classes, citizenship classes, financial literacy, individual and family counseling, youth programming, workforce development, and a small business hub; and

WHEREAS, Latin Americans United for Progress continues to **Empower Latinos** to participate in creating a better community for all through advocacy, education, and celebration; and

WHEREAS, Holland celebrates the rich diversity within this community that includes ancestry from Mexico, Cuba, Spain, and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, LAUP continues to “triple” community impact by enhancing services, fostering organizational growth, and expanding staff to better address diverse needs of our Latino/Latina community; and

WHEREAS, LAUP has helped their students receive over 1 million dollars in scholarship, has helped participants of the Educate Elevate workforce program earn over 1.4 million dollars in wages that are reinvested into the local economy, provided 200 Prospera Small Business Hub entrepreneurs coaching sessions, and served over 600 individuals through resource navigation in the community; and

WHEREAS, “Aqui Estamos”, “We are Here” LAUP serves the Lakeshore community, is resilient and brings the community together to advance opportunities, yesterday, today and tomorrow.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nathan Bocks, Mayor of the City of Holland, Michigan, and members of the Holland City Council, welcome the community to join the Latin American’s United for Progress’ 61st Fiesta. We invite the community to join the week long activities beginning July 14th through the Fiesta Celebration on July 19th as a day to celebrate our community the contributions of the Latino community.



Given under my hand and the seal of the
City of Holland, this 16th of July 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan Bocks", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mayor Nathan Bocks