

# City of Dallas News Release

Public Information Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007

## Hispanic Heritage and Health Celebration set for Sept. 13; Council members Pauline Medrano and Carolyn R. Davis will host the event

The public is invited to attend the 2nd Annual Hispanic-Heritage Celebration at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. "Unidad/Unity: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Health" is the special theme for this year's celebration.

Recognizing the growing problem of diabetes within the Hispanic population, this year's celebration will not only include festivities and fun but also important information about eating healthy while still enjoying the many foods which have been a part of the Hispanic heritage for decades.

To address these issues and educate participants, the keynote speaker will be Dr. Natalia Gutierrez-Chefchis, Chief Resident Family Medicine Residency, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Marie Duncan with the City of Dallas Environmental and Health Services Department will address health issues, and there will be an energetic exercise demonstration called "Salsa Aerobics."

Last year was the first time the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center hosted a Hispanic-Heritage Month celebration signifying that the Fair Park community, once overwhelmingly African American, is becoming more Hispanic. The blending of cultures is evident in the census figures. In 1990, District 7 – which includes Fair Park and South Dallas – was about 10 percent Hispanic. In 2000, the Hispanic population grew to more than 28 percent.

"The Hispanic-Heritage Celebration is another event that shows the diversity and unity of our South Dallas Community," said Patrick Jackson, MLK Community Center Manager. "We are looking forward to educating our community as to how our cultures have had many cultural influences on each other."

**When:** 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13

**Where:** MLK Recreation Center, located on the South side of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, at 2901 Pennsylvania Ave.