



ABC 7 CHICAGO
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABC 7 CHICAGO CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH NEWS REPORTS, PARADE BROADCAST, *Ñ BEAT SPECIAL* FEATURING HAMILTON'S JOSE RAMOS AND HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH VIGNETTES

ABC 7 Chicago Only Local TV Station to broadcast the Little Village Chamber of Commerce's 26th Street Mexican Independence Day Parade, airing Sunday, September 9 At 11:30 PM

ABC 7 CHICAGO will highlight the rich culture and traditions of Chicago's Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15. ABC 7 will celebrate Chicago's diverse community with special **news reports**; the broadcast of the *The 26th Street Mexican Independence Day Parade*; a half-hour edition of *THE Ñ BEAT*; and a series of vignettes.

The 26th Street Mexican Independence Day Parade, sponsored by the Little Village Chamber of Commerce, is hosted by ABC 7 Eyewitness News Anchor **Rob Elgas**, Reporter **Michelle Gallardo** and **Cesareo Moreno**, chief curator of the National Museum of Mexican Art. **Jaime di Paulo**, executive director of the Little Village Chamber of Commerce, will make a special guest appearance in the broadcast booth. Participating in this year's festivities are ABC 7's Eyewitness News team –**John Garcia, Leah Hope, Mark Rivera, Phil Schwarz, Roz Varon** and **Windy City LIVE's Val Warner** riding atop the ABC 7 float.

This year's theme "Families Belong Together," highlights the international movement calling for more humane immigration policies. ABC 7's parade broadcast, in the heart of the Little Village neighborhood, illuminates Mexican culture and is considered one of the most colorful parades in Chicago. More than 200,000 spectators will be treated to Mariachi bands and floats including, The Chicago Mariachi Project, featuring Chicago youth playing Mariachi music during the parade. The group will also appear in the upcoming *Ñ BEAT special*.

Jesus "Chuy" Garcia will serve as the 49th Annual Mexican Independence Day Parade Grand Marshal. Garcia has been the Cook County Commissioner for the 7th District since elected in 2010.

The parade takes place on September 9th at noon and airs on **ABC 7 from 11:30 PM-12:30 AM on Sunday, September 9.**

Throughout September and October, ABC 7 will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with vignettes spotlighting some of the influential and important artists, businesses and community organizations making a difference in Chicago during the upcoming October 6 edition of ***THE Ñ BEAT***.

ABC 7 will broadcast its Emmy Award-winning program, ***THE Ñ BEAT***, hosted by **Stacey Baca**, with contributions by ABC 7's **Tanja Babich, Rob Elgas, Mark Rivera, Roz Varon and John Garcia**, on **Saturday, October 6 at 6:30 PM** and **Sunday, October 7, at 4:30 PM.**

Stacey Baca hosts this special edition spotlighting actor/singer Jose Ramos from the Chicago cast of the hit musical, **Hamilton**; the Chicago Mariachi Project, teaching youth the classic art of mariachi; Lincoln Square Restaurant Artango featuring Argentinian food, dance and music; Gads Hill Center, providing important daycare and educational services in underserved neighborhoods and a program for teaching Latino girls how to code. ABC 7 contributors are Tanja Babich, Rob Elgas and Mark Rivera.

The Ñ Beat and *The 26th Street Mexican Independence Day Parade* will be available on-demand at www.abc7chicago.com. Cathy Karp is the producer of the parade. Holly Grisham is the producer of ***THE Ñ BEAT***.