

WHEREAS, Dr. Ezequiel Bonilla is a Professor of Entrepreneurship at California State University, Palm Desert Campus, and a respected leader in the community. He received his Doctorate from Case Western Reserve, focusing on Latino entrepreneurs, the fastest-growing segment of business ownership in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonillas was born and raised in the Coachella Valley and has a history of working with entrepreneurs, small business owners, and Native nations. He has been recognized as top lecturer at CSU San Bernardino, Palm Desert Campus, and is a past recipient of Palm Springs Life's 40 under 40; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonillas has led the Palm Desert iHub since January 2024, coordinating efforts with the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship, CSU San Bernardino, Palm Desert Campus School of Entrepreneurship, and the City of Palm Desert. He has made a substantial impact by assisting 175 business startups, and worked with over 365 entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonillas has hosted nearly 50 events attended by over 700 business owners and entrepreneurs at all stages, representing diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds through programs such as Mini MBA, Veterans Entrepreneurship, "Tu Si Puedes," It's Your Time, and industry round tables; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ezequiel Bonillas has helped local Coachella Valley-based businesses secure over \$10.5 million dollars in Small Business Administration-back financing, thus supporting over 440 jobs, 340 minority-owned and 550 women-owned firms. He has also graduated over 60 companies from iHub-sponsored programs, creating opportunities for jobs and student internships from companies incubated at the iHub.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Karina Quintanilla along with the entire City Council of Palm Desert, California, recognize

Dr. Ezequiel Bonillas in Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Palm Desert, California to be affixed this 24th day of October 2024.