

Resolution No. 605-2019

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Council Member B. Jones

Declaring the second Monday in October, currently observed as Columbus Day, annually as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Cleveland; encouraging other institutions to recognize this day; and reaffirming the City's commitment to promote the well-being and growth of Cleveland's Native American and Indigenous community.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland supports the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of indigenous people of this nation, and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that all indigenous people add to our city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland recognizes the annexation of indigenous homelands for the building of our nation, and knows indigenous people have lived upon this nation's land since time immemorial, and values the progress our society has accomplished through Native American technology, thought, and culture; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland values the many contributions made to our community through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts and deep cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the character of this City; and

WHEREAS, citizens have a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism towards indigenous people in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland promotes closing the equity gap for Indigenous peoples through policies and practices that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, government entities, organizations and other public institutions should change their policies to support a day of celebration and appreciation for the contributions of indigenous people and to celebrate our nation's variety of indigenous roots and history; and

WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance, representatives from 120 indigenous nations unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day into an occasion to strengthen the process of continental unity and struggle towards liberation and thereby use the occasion to reveal a more accurate historical record; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland recognizes the value of educational integrity and search for truth in telling the story of our foundation, and acknowledges past injustices to all Native American nations, and as a gesture of reconciliation, desires to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS, this Council urges that Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be used to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of indigenous people of this land, and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that all indigenous people add to our city; and

WHEREAS, this Council urges the Administration to affirm that it is City policy to participate in the annual Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations and activities; that City departments work with the Department of Community Relations to encourage participation on a citywide basis; and

WHEREAS, this Council urges that other businesses, organizations, and public entities to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council declares the second Monday in October, currently observed as Columbus Day, annually as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Cleveland; encourages other institutions to recognize this day; and reaffirms the City's commitment to promote the well-being and growth of Cleveland's Native American and Indigenous community.

Section 2. That this Council hereby directs the Clerk of Council to transmit a copy of this resolution to City of Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

jj 5-6-19 FOR: Council Member Basheer Jones

