

P roclamation

CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

Whereas: the first American Indian Day was celebrated in 1916 after Blackfeet Nation member Red Fox James rode across the nation on horseback seeking approval from 24 states to have a day to honor American Indians; and

Whereas: in 1990 Congress authorized the President to proclaim the month of November “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”; and

Whereas: the history of the City of Racine is inextricably linked to the experiences, heritage, and culture of the Potawatomi Nation who, for centuries, stewarded this land until forced by the U.S. Government in 1883 to cede their territory and leave their home; and

Whereas: this year’s Native American Heritage Month theme is *Weaving Together our Past, Present, and Future*, which is extremely significant locally as in October, the Potawatomi Nation donated the Fire Keeper Statue that now stands outside of Festival Park along the Kipikawi Causeway where it serves as a constant reminder and celebration of the city’s shared history; and

Whereas: during this month of observance, residents of the City of Racine are encouraged to celebrate the invaluable contributions to the city's arts, economic development, sustainability, governmental, education, and countless other fields made by Indigenous Racinians.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cory Mason, Mayor of the City of Racine, designate the month of November 2024 as:

National Native American Indian/ Alaska Native Heritage Month

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Racine to be affixed.

**Accomplished at the City Hall
The 19th day of November 2024.**

Mayor