

-DRAFT-

Proclaiming the Second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day

Indigenous Peoples' Day began in commemoration of five hundred years of survival and renewal of native cultures in the face of political and cultural repression. The indigenous cultures flourishing in the City of Racine since time immemorial established sustainable, accommodating cultures based on cooperation among neighbors and respect for the land and for all creatures living on it. These indigenous cultures were disrupted and destroyed in the City of Racine, as in almost all parts of this hemisphere, and yet with great resilience they have survived.

With at least 12,000 years of human occupation, today parts of the City of Racine may have been built on sacred ground. The population in this area has transformed from a 100% indigenous society to a society with a 1% Native American population.

The Indigenous Peoples' Day recognition could bring greater understanding to the people of the City of Racine regarding native nations and cultures and the enormous contributions they have made and continue to make to world culture and to the City of Racine.

This request is supported by Coming Together Racine, an anti-racist organization formed in 2005, and by the Social Justice Task Force of Visioning a Greater Racine.

DRAFT PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus, financed by Spain, landed in the Bahamas, not North America; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is home to members of eleven federally recognized tribes and Indigenous Peoples were here long before the first European explorers; 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, the National Congress of American Indians formally endorsed support of Indigenous Peoples' Day in 2011, "To enlighten the public toward a better of the understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people;" and

WHEREAS, communities around the country have since begun to formally recognize the observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day in an effort to create a path of healing and reconciliation, including Milwaukee County and Dane County; and

WHEREAS, The City of Racine recognizes that it was founded and built upon lands first inhabited by Indigenous peoples of the Archaic Period and last by the Potawatomi tribe until their removal in the 1830's under the Indian Removal Act; and

WHEREAS, The City of Racine recognizes the historic and contemporary cultural significance of the Indigenous Peoples and their ancestors, their knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts, and many other contributions; and

WHEREAS, The City of Racine acknowledges the systemic racism toward Indigenous Peoples in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Racine does hereby affirm and proclaim that the second Monday of October will be Indigenous Peoples' Day, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Racine does hereby offer its thanks and gratitude to the native people on behalf of all of City of Racine, in recognition of their care for this land and in honor of native thought, culture, technology and ways of being, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Racine includes recognition of this day in all its materials and calendars;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City of Racine urges all City of Racine community members to observe the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.