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Draft Date:

**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY;  
DECLARING THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY IN  
THE CITY OF BOSTON; ENCOURAGING OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO RECOGNIZE THE  
DAY; AND REAFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING  
AND GROWTH OF BOSTON'S NATIVE AMERICAN/INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.**

WHEREAS: Columbus Day has been celebrated unofficially since the early 18th century, and was officially made a Federal Holiday in 1937 to be celebrated on the second Monday of October, with M.G.L Part I, Title I, Ch. 4, section 7, clause 18 setting aside the second Monday of October as a State Legal Holiday, and M.G.L Part I, Title II, Ch. 6, Section 12V designating that the Governor declare that day to be Columbus Day, and this holiday has been celebrated in Boston since 1910; and

WHEREAS: The day commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas on October 12, 1492; and

WHEREAS: The First Voyage of Columbus to the Americas also initiated the transatlantic slave trade, journal entries from Columbus show his desire to enslave the Indigenous populations of the Caribbean, and he imprisoned and transported many hundreds of people to this end; and

WHEREAS: Columbus' Second Voyage of 1493 was one of conquest, wherein seventeen ships were led by him to the New World, and his governorship of the Caribbean instituted systematic policies of slavery and extermination of Indigenous populations, especially the Taino people whose population was reduced from approximately 8 million to 100,000 during Columbus' reign, being further reduced by the continuation of his policies until near-extinction in 1542; and

WHEREAS: The example of the Taino people is merely indicative of the policies of Columbus and his men, and all told some historians estimate that more than 15 million Indigenous persons were exterminated in the Caribbean Basin alone; and

WHEREAS: Though the introduction of European diseases may account for some of these deaths, starvation and overt extermination policies were mostly to blame, and thus this atrocity cannot be reasonably attributed to forces outside of the control of European colonialists; and

WHEREAS: The devastation of Indigenous populations would lead to the kidnapping, deaths, and enslavement of tens of millions of African people, and the profound effects of the transatlantic slave trade and African diaspora continue to be felt to the present day; and

WHEREAS: Boston believes that the cultures of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas are worthy of being promoted, that the history is rich, diverse, and worthy of celebration, and that the actions and policies of European colonizers of the Americas destroyed a part of those cultures, and inhibited the promulgation of it for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boston recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial, and the City recognizes the fact that Boston is built upon the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Peoples of this region, without whom the building of the City would not have been possible; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Boston has 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 wishes to ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation's Indigenous roots, history and contributions; and

WHEREAS: Other localities including Seattle, Denver, Portland OR, Berkeley CA, and Albuquerque have adopted Indigenous Peoples' Day as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day, to promote Indigenous cultures and commemorate the history of Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, 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 representatives from 120 Indigenous nations at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance 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 wishes to continue its affirmation of the immeasurable contributions of people of Italian heritage to the world, the nation, and the City, and the Councillors hereby reaffirm that Italian Heritage Month is to be celebrated during the month of October annually.

*Now therefore be it*

RESOLVED: That the Council go on the record to state that the second Monday of October henceforth be commemorated as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Boston, in recognition of the position of Indigenous Peoples as native to these lands, and the suffering they faced following European conquest of their land; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends that Indigenous Peoples' Day be observed by the people to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous People on this land, and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that Indigenous Peoples add to our City; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends, following the approval of this resolution, consultation with Indigenous people regarding the forms of future commemoration in Boston for Indigenous Peoples' Day; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City of Boston will encourage Boston Public Schools to observe this day, with appropriate exercises and instruction in the schools around the time of Indigenous Peoples' Day, to the end that the culture, history and diversity of Indigenous Peoples be celebrated and perpetuated; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City of Boston encourages other businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize and observe Indigenous Peoples' Day; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to ensure that the Massachusetts Indian Commission, North American Indian Center of Boston, the Nipmuc Nation, the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Tribal Council, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), The Praying Indian Tribes of Natick and Ponkapoag, the Massachusetts at Ponkapoag Tribe, and United American Indians of New England, all of which include descendants of those people indigenous to this area, receive a suitably engrossed copy of this order.