



Regular Council **AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

To: City Council
Subject: Approve a resolution acknowledging Indigenous Peoples' Day
Meeting: Regular Council - 05 Oct 2021
Department: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Staff Contact: Elaine Hardy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Administrator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2016, the City of East Lansing formally recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day and discontinued the observance of Columbus Day. This document is the annual resolution acknowledging October 11, 2021 as Indigenous Peoples' Day in East Lansing.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

[Indigenous Peoples Day 2021](#)

City of East Lansing, Michigan

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY IN EAST LANSING

October 5, 2021

WHEREAS, the City of East Lansing acknowledges the occupation of the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Three Fires Confederacy of Odawa, Ojibwe and Potawatomi Indigenous Nations; and,

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples have lived upon this land since time immemorial and thrived as sovereign nations before the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus voyaged to the place now known as the Americas; and,

WHEREAS, resisting the occupation of sacred lands indigenous people were enslaved, murdered, and forcibly removed from ancestral lands; and,

WHEREAS, their populations were decimated through genocide and other unspeakable crimes, to support European colonization of the Americas; and,

WHEREAS, the City of East Lansing acknowledges the harms and irreplaceable loss to our collective humanity for the acts committed against our indigenous family; and,

WHEREAS, the City of East Lansing understands that government and other public institutions must include and reflect the experiences of Native Peoples and uplift our country's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and,

WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous People's Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations; 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 opportunity to educate the rest of the country about indigenous cultures that have survived violent colonization processes, enslavement, genocide, and continue to exist and thrive in present day America; and,

WHEREAS, the United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples Declaration adopted in 2006 confirms the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination, recognizes subsistence rights and rights to lands, territories and resources; recognizes that indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress; outlaws discrimination against indigenous peoples; and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them, as well as their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians has passed a resolution: (1) officially recognizing Indigenous People’s Day on the second Monday in October; (2) stating that Indigenous People’s Day shall be used to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of indigenous peoples on this land; and (3) to celebrate the thriving cultures and value that the Odawa, Ojibwe, Potawatomi and other indigenous peoples contribute to society; and,

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2016, the City of East Lansing formally recognized the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day; and,

WHEREAS, the City of East Lansing officially acknowledges and affirms the sovereignty of these nations and the Seven Grandfather Teachings: Truth, Humility, Respect, Love, Honesty, Courage, and Wisdom; and,

WHEREAS, in honor of these 7 teachings as being dependent upon and inseparable from the health and survival of tress, water, soil, plants, insects, and animals the City of East Lansing will commit to sustaining the current natural woodlands, meadows, wetlands and greenspaces in our parks and trails; and,

WHEREAS, in 2020 the East Lansing City Council declared the following land acknowledgement in written or spoken form will occur at the convening of all its public meetings and a written acknowledgement is placed on all City council agendas;

“The City of East Lansing occupies the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi peoples land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw;” and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Indigenous People’s Day shall be used to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of indigenous peoples on this land and to celebrate and learn from the thriving cultures and values that the Odawa, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and other indigenous peoples contribute to communities throughout Michigan, the United States of America, and the world.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of East Lansing encourages other businesses, organizations and public entities to recognize Indigenous People’s Day Monday October 11, 2021.