

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING EVERY) RESOLUTION NO. 24-5441
NOVEMBER AS NATIVE AMERICAN)
HERITAGE MONTH IN THE GREATER) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
PORTLAND AREA) Marissa Madrigal in concurrence with
Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, the area now known as greater Portland is built upon the ancestral homelands, villages and traditional use areas of Tribes, bands and Indigenous Peoples who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month provides an opportunity to recognize the diverse cultures, achievements and contributions of Tribes and urban Indigenous communities in the region and society, while not forgetting Oregon's and the United States' past transgressions, injustices, acts of violence, thefts of lands and genocidal policies which we vow to never repeat; and

WHEREAS, this month also brings an opportunity to educate the public about how the government's attempted erasure and genocide of Tribes and Indigenous Peoples can still be felt today through oppressive policies and practices woven throughout governmental systems; and

WHEREAS, Tribes and Indigenous People carry cultural wisdom, traditional knowledge, and professional expertise into every part of our communities, distinguishing themselves as artists, scientists, history makers, storytellers, entrepreneurs and leaders; and

WHEREAS, Tribes and Indigenous Peoples have and continue to provide leadership in our region and across the country to protect critical natural resources including First Foods, the environment, and sensitive cultural and historic resources which tell the story of our shared heritage, for the benefit of all citizens across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Metro continues its commitment to supporting tribal sovereignty through the agency's Tribal Affairs Program which seeks to establish mutually beneficial relationships with interested Tribes to inform and implement Metro's work within the context of honoring and respecting tribal treaty rights, tribal trust responsibilities, and ensuring the protection and stewardship of sensitive cultural, historic and natural resources across our region; and

WHEREAS, the Indigenous Community Liaison Program in Parks and Nature is another critical part of our work supporting Native community in access to land, stewardship of the land, and enhancing opportunities for the pursuit of traditional lifeways by the region's rich and diverse community representing over 380 distinct Tribes in greater Portland; and

WHEREAS, Metro supports the agency's Indigenous staff affinity group who lead staff advocacy to create cultural awareness opportunities which equip Metro staff and leadership with necessary knowledge and skills to build relationships with Tribes, Indigenous community serving organizations and Indigenous community members, and affirms Metro's commitment to supporting Indigenous staff who work at Metro including at least 1% of Metro's workforce who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, Metro has a responsibility to implement regional policies, strategic planning and projects in a manner that interrupts the systemic erasure of Tribes and Indigenous Peoples;

WHEREAS, Metro has a responsibility to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge, a body of observations, oral and written knowledge, innovations, practices, and beliefs developed by Tribes and Indigenous Peoples through interaction and experience with the environment, into the agency's regional research, policy, and decision making; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, Metro shall recognize every November as Native American Heritage Month to honor the legacy and ongoing contributions of Tribes and urban Indigenous community members throughout our vibrant community and region, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Metro encourages other businesses, organizations, public institutions, and community members to recognize National Native American Heritage Month and celebrate the Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples who deeply enrich the quality and character of the community making Portland and Oregon a better place to live and work.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this seventh day of November, 2024.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney