

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING OCTOBER)
14, 2019 AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY IN THE)
GREATER PORTLAND AREA AND NOVEMBER AS)
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH)

RESOLUTION NO. 19-5036

Introduced by Councilor Shirley Craddick

WHEREAS, Metro recognizes that American Indians and Alaska Natives have lived on these lands we all cherish since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, it is important for us to never forget American history through the perspective of Native people in our country because it reminds us of forced migration, broken treaties, and other injustices that should never be repeated. This history is a lesson to all of us of the perseverance and resilience of Native people in the face of these injustices and the continued integrity and vitality of their cultures and their governments. As we work together to forge a brighter future, we cannot shy away from the difficult aspects of our past; and

WHEREAS, Metro recognizes that Oregon's tribal people were impacted by the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act that was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1954. As a result of this act, many tribal governments were abolished and their members were relocated to urban areas, making Portland the 9th largest urban Indian population in the United States, with over 40,000 tribal people representing 380 tribes; and

WHEREAS, Native people have contributed to the unique culture of the greater Portland area and this country, with a special emphasis on traditional ecological knowledge and core values that go beyond materialism. Today, Native Americans are leaders in every aspect of our society – from the classroom, to the boardroom, to the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples Day transforms a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to recognize the thriving traditions and deeply rooted values of the Indigenous people who reside in the greater Portland area, and their ancestors before them; and

WHEREAS, November is Native American Heritage Month originating in 1990 the month is to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people; now therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council proclaims October 14, 2019 as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the greater Portland area and November Native American Heritage Month to honor and celebrate the many contributions made by the Indigenous peoples throughout our vibrant community. We encourage other businesses, organizations, public institutions, and community members to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and take time to learn and teach others about the history and cultural significance of the American Indian and Alaska Native community.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this seventeenth day of October 2019.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney