

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-5133, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 12, 2020 AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY IN THE GREATER PORTLAND AREA

Date: October 1, 2020
Department: Council Office
Meeting Date: October 1, 2020

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ISSUE STATEMENT

The Metro Council has an opportunity to honor, acknowledge, and celebrate the resiliency of Indigenous communities in this region and beyond by adopting Resolution No. 20-5133 proclaiming the second Monday of every October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the greater Portland area.

ACTION REQUESTED

Consideration and vote on Resolution No. 20-5133.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Advancing the Metro Council's proclamation for the second Monday of each October 2020 to be Indigenous Peoples' Day in the greater Portland area to honor and celebrate the many significant contributions and sacrifices made by Indigenous People and tribes throughout our vibrant community. We encourage all to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and take time to deepen their understanding of the history and cultural significance of the Indigenous People and tribes of this land.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Metro Council adopt Resolution No. 20-5133.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Council adoption of this resolution will further Metro's commitment to the goals stated in the Strategic Plan to advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, in particular:
 - Metro meaningfully engages communities of color
 - Metro hires, trains and promotes a racially diverse workforce
 - Metro creates safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations
- Council adoption of this resolution will further codify Metro's desire and efforts to build relationships, promote effective communication and coordination, and seek

opportunities for partnership with sovereign tribal partners, and implement its programs and activities within the context of honoring and respecting tribal rights, cultural heritage and traditional life-ways

- Known Opposition/Support/Community Feedback
None
- Legal Antecedents
Metro Council Resolution No. 15-4663; Metro Council Resolution No. 16-4748; Metro Council Resolution No. 17-4851; Metro Resolution No. 18-4936; Metro Resolution 19-4992; Resolution No. 19-5036.
- Anticipated Effects
Metro shall recognize every second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day and October 12, 2020 will be recognized as the sixth annual Indigenous Peoples' Day in the greater Portland area.
- Financial Implications
None

BACKGROUND

Metro recognizes the greater Portland area is built upon the ancestral homelands, villages and traditional use areas of the Indigenous People and tribes of this region who have been caretakers of these lands we cherish since time immemorial.

The second Monday in October is recognized by the federal government as Columbus Day. However, Columbus Day is not recognized by the State of Oregon. In 2011, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 59 tribes from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana, and Alaska, and the National Congress of American Indians, the oldest and largest national organization of tribal governments, passed separate resolutions supporting changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Since 2015, Metro has joined other local governments including the City of Portland in recognizing the important history and culture of Indigenous People in our community, country, and around the world on the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day. It is important for us to never forget Oregon's and the United States' history of violence, forced migration, thefts of lands and resources, broken treaties, termination, relocation, and other assimilative policies that we resolve to never repeat.

In May 2017, the Metro Council adopted an updated Diversity Action Plan, following Council's adoption of the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in 2016. Together, these policies seek to address systemic inequities and create a more equitable region for all by focusing on racial equity, diversity and inclusion of historically marginalized communities in every aspect of Metro's work.

In recent years Metro has strategically created staff positions such as the Parks and Nature Indigenous Community Liaison and Tribal Policy Advisor to work collaboratively to develop and implement policies and practices that create trust, partnership and enhance access and opportunity with tribal sovereign governments and Indigenous community members. These efforts reflect Metro's commitment to implement its programs and activities within the context of honoring and respecting tribal rights, cultural heritage and traditional life-ways.

Declaring the second Monday of each October and this October 12, 2020 as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the greater Portland area will honor and acknowledge the resiliency of Indigenous communities in this region and beyond. Metro shall continue its efforts to partner with tribal sovereigns and Indigenous People to promote prosperity and well-being in our community through implementing our programs and activities within the context of honoring and respecting tribal rights, cultural heritage and the pursuit of traditional life-ways for present and future generations.

ATTACHMENTS

None