

October 8, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 191608

WHEREAS, October 12, 1492, marks the beginning of the colonization and genocide of Indigenous people that forever changed their identity, cultures, and achievements;

WHEREAS, a numerous and growing list of cities and state governments within the United States now recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day in an effort to create a path of healing, reconciliation, and an accurate representation of state and local history;

WHEREAS, the land on which present-day Dallas stands has been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial, including nomadic peoples like the tribes of the Lipan Apache and Comanche, and specifically the Caddo and Wichita whose settlements once bordered the banks of the Trinity River;

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas has a responsibility to oppose and work to correct the systematic racism towards Indigenous people in Texas and the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises;

WHEREAS, resulting from Indian Termination Policies of the mid-twentieth century, the City of Dallas is home to one of the largest Urban Indian populations in the United States, which celebrates and highlights the cultures of Indigenous Peoples through continued contributions to our thriving community;

WHEREAS, the celebration of 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, recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day will better reflect Dallas' values of being welcoming and tolerant.

Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council hereby declares the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Dallas.

SECTION 2. That the City of Dallas affirms its willingness to participate in annual Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations and activities.

SECTION 3. That the City of Dallas encourages other businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day.

SECTION 4. That City of Dallas firmly commits to continue its efforts to promote the well-being and growth of Dallas' American Indian and Indigenous community.

SECTION 5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.

