

Adopted: October 1, 2019

**CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION 11-2019**

A Resolution declaring the Second Monday in October as the Indigenous People's Day in the City of Mount Rainier and reaffirming the City of Mount Rainier's commitment to promote the well-being and growth of Mount Rainier's Indigenous communities.

Councilmember Celina Benitez

WHEREAS, 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, 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 occasion to strengthen continental unity and recognize Indigenous Peoples' struggle towards liberation, and thereby use the occasion to reveal a more accurate historical record; and

WHEREAS, The City of Mount Rainier was founded and build upon lands whose original inhabitants were the Piscataway Conoy Tribe and honors current members of the tribe and their ancestors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial, and the City recognizes that Mount Rainier is built upon the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Peoples of this region, without whom the building of the City would not have been possible; and

WHEREAS, the City values the many contributions made to our community through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, and art and the deep cultural contributions that have substantially shaped the character of the City of Mount Rainier; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier has a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism toward Indigenous People in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to ensure greater access and opportunity to Indigenous Peoples and honor our nation's Indigenous roots, history and contributions; and

WHEREAS, The City of Mount Rainier understands that to help close the equality gap, government entities, organizations and other public institutions should change their policies and practices to better reflect the experience of Indigenous Peoples and uplift our country's Indigenous roots, history, and contributions, as well as truthfully acknowledge the history of actions that created that gap;

WHEREAS: Other cities, including Seattle, Denver, Portland OR, Berkeley CA, and Albuquerque have adopted Indigenous Peoples' Day as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day, to promote Indigenous cultures and commemorate the history of Indigenous Peoples; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Council go on record to state that the second Monday of October henceforth be commemorated as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Mount Rainier in recognition of the position of Indigenous Peoples as native to these lands and the suffering they endured following European conquest of their land; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City of Mount Rainier shall revise its administrative policies to include recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day where appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends that Indigenous Peoples' Day be observed by the people of Mount Rainier to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous People in this land and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that Indigenous Peoples add to our City; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends, following the approval of this Resolution, consultation with Indigenous Peoples regarding the forms of future commemoration in Mount Rainier for Indigenous Peoples' Day; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City of Mount Rainier will encourage public schools to observe this day with appropriate exercises and instruction in the schools around the time of Indigenous Peoples' Day, to the end that the culture, history and diversity of Indigenous Peoples be celebrated and perpetuated; and be it further

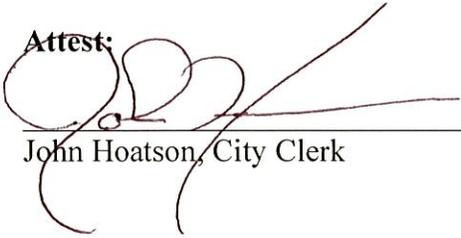
RESOLVED: That the City of Mount Rainier encourages other businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize and observe Indigenous Peoples' Day; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to ensure that the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe receive a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution; and be it further

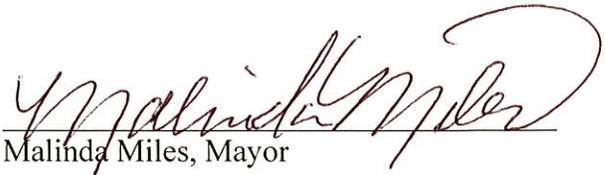
RESOLVED: The City Council of the City of Mount Rainier declares the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Mount Rainier and advises the City Manager to continue granting this day as a paid holiday for City staff in lieu of Columbus Day; and be it further

RESOLVED: a signed Copy of this resolution will be sent to County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, Senators Van Hollen and Cardin, Congressman Anthony Brown, the 47th district Representatives: Senator Malcom Augustine, Delegates Diana Fennel, Julian Ivy and Wanika Fisher, County Councilmember Deni Tavares, the Prince George's County Council, Board of Education Member Pamela Boozer Strother and the Prince George's County Board of Education.

Attest:



John Hoatson, City Clerk



Malinda Miles, Mayor



Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward I



Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward I



Scott Cecil, Councilmember Ward II



Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward II

