

## RESOLUTION 19-17

### TO DECLARE THE SECOND MONDAY OF OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY IN THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON AND ENCOURAGING OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO RECOGNIZE THE DAY

- WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington is located in the great state of Indiana, whose name means "Land of the Indians"; and
- WHEREAS, the land now known as Indiana has provided resources, has contained vital trade routes, and has served as the home for Native people, communities, and advanced social complexes for thousands of years; and
- WHEREAS, through the use of removal treaties, Native inhabitants, including members of the Miami, Delaware, Shawnee, Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Wea, Wyandot, and Piankeshaw, were systematically dispossessed from their homelands, forcibly creating the opportunity for Euro-American settlement and resource extraction; and
- WHEREAS, such documents as the Doctrine of Discovery of 1493, which gave Spain exclusive rights to the lands explorers encountered in the New World, were subsequently reinforced by American judicial decisions and such beliefs as manifest destiny, which fueled white settlers' westward expansion; and
- WHEREAS, this imperialist ethos allowed for the inhumane treatment of the native peoples, their eradication from their homelands, and the cession of these lands to the federal government; and
- WHEREAS, many people of indigenous ancestry continue to live in Bloomington and throughout Indiana; and
- WHEREAS to this day, the highest distinctions awarded by the Governor of Indiana bear names from an American Indian language that designate paramount chiefs: the Sachem and the Sagamore; and
- WHEREAS support for the declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Day has grown since the idea was presented by a delegation of Native Nations at the United Nations' first International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, held in Geneva, Switzerland in 1977; and
- WHEREAS, since then, at least 130 cities, six states, and many college and university campuses have officially declared the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day; and
- WHEREAS, many indigenous students bring their talents to Indiana University-Bloomington, where the Native American Student Association and the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center assist in their transition, provide opportunities for cultural observance and celebration, and set them up for success; and
- WHEREAS, IU's American Indian Studies Research Institute and The Language Conservancy in Bloomington are dedicated to helping to preserve rapidly disappearing indigenous languages and cultures; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has a responsibility to oppose systemic racism toward Indigenous Peoples of the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating these communities' disproportionately negative health, education, and social welfare indicators; and
- WHEREAS, the cultures and contributions of the original peoples of the Americas should be recognized, honored, and celebrated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The second Monday in October shall be declared as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Bloomington.

SECTION 2. Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be an opportunity to celebrate the cultures and values that Indigenous Peoples of our region add to the communities in Bloomington, throughout Indiana, and globally.

SECTION 3. The City of Bloomington strongly encourages local schools, universities, businesses, and other organizations to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day. With this goal in mind, a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Monroe County Community School Corporation, Indiana University, Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington, the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, the Monroe County Commissioners, and the Governor of the State of Indiana.

PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVE ROLLO, President  
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk

SIGNED AND APPROVED by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor  
City of Bloomington

#### SYNOPSIS

This resolution is sponsored by Cms. Chopra, Granger, and Piedmont-Smith and declares the second Monday as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Bloomington and offers this day as an opportunity to celebrate the cultures and values that Indigenous Peoples of our region add to the communities in Bloomington, throughout Indiana, and globally.

**Resolution 19-17 - To Declare the Second  
Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples'  
Day in the City of Bloomington and  
Encouraging Other Institutions to  
Recognize the Day**

Note: Please read the resolution which speaks for itself and will be distributed to various officials and entities both here and elsewhere.

As Cm. Piedmont-Smith stated in a recent Press Release:

"Our state name means the 'land of the Indians,' but we know that European settlers displaced many American Indian tribes or First Nations since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This resolution is a small step toward recognizing the legacy of these native peoples, their continued cultural impact, and the history of mistreatment in the state and region that we are still working to overcome."