

PROCLAMATION 2023-06-PT

Recognizing Native American Heritage Month and Indigenous Peoples' Day STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE: OS-5 and OS-6

WHEREAS, the Port of Tacoma has adopted a Diversity and Inclusion Policy which declares the Port respects and values the rich diversity of its employees, customers, contractors and stakeholders and that it is committed to a work environment that is inclusive and values diverse thought and expression in pursuit of the organization's mission and is committed to provide a workplace environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment; and

WHEREAS, Port of Tacoma Resolution 2020-06-PT identifies diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values that the Port of Tacoma shall incorporate into its Strategic Plan and into Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Port of Tacoma Resolution 2020-06-PT adopts the following guiding principles as the basis for the Port of Tacoma's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives: undoing and understanding the history of racism, embracing differences, and developing leadership; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2021, the Port of Tacoma Commission approved a new strategic plan, which contained strategies calling on the Port to integrate the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as health and safety, into the Port's culture and decision-making framework; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Tacoma recognizes that the indigenous peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Tacoma recognizes that Pierce County overlaps the homelands and villages of the indigenous peoples of this region; and

WHEREAS, the Port values the many contributions made by indigenous peoples in our community in the arts, education, social services, medicine, transportation, family support, workforce labor, and service to our country in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, the Port is committed to promoting the well-being and growth of Pierce County's American Indian and indigenous community—most notably the Puyallup Tribe of Indians— by engaging in dialogues led by tribal communities in the areas of self-determination, sovereignty and cultural preservation, in order to create an active government-to-government collaboration; and

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, on December 16, 2010, the United States announced support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“Declaration”), which recognizes that “indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources;”; and

WHEREAS, Article 15 of the Declaration recognizes the right of Indigenous Peoples “to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information” and obliges Nation states to “take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society,”; and

WHEREAS, many jurisdictions in the United States celebrate “Indigenous Peoples’ Day,” including the cities of Spokane, adopted in 2016; Olympia, adopted in 2015; Seattle, adopted in 2014; and Tacoma, adopted in 2018; and

WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush declared the first “National Native American Heritage Month” in 1990 at the request of Congress;

NOW, THEREFORE:

Section 1. The Port of Tacoma strongly supports the proposition that “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” and “Native American Heritage Month” shall be opportunities to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region.

Section 2. The Port commits to continuing its efforts to promote the wellbeing and cultural vitality of Pierce County’s Indigenous community—in particular, the Puyallup Tribe.

Section 3. The Port of Tacoma recognizes the second Monday in October as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.”

Section 4. The Port of Tacoma recognizes the month of November as “Native American Heritage Month.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the Port of Tacoma on this 24th day of October in the year two-thousand and twenty-three.

Deanna M. Keller, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

John McCarthy, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission