

Resolution 2020-14-PT



A Resolution of the Port of Tacoma Commission

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, be it resolved that:

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 firmly 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.”

ADOPTED by a majority of the members of the Port of Tacoma Commission at a regular meeting held on the 19th day of November, a majority of the members being present and voting on this resolution and signed by its President and attested by its Secretary under the official seal of said Commission in authentication of its passage this 19th day of November, 2020.

draft

John McCarthy, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

ATTEST:

Don Meyer, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission