

RESOLUTION NO. 17-21

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

WHEREAS, the City of West Lafayette 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, and additional Tribal Nations, are no longer here due to systematic dispossession from their homelands, and the forcible creation of 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 West Lafayette 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 185 cities, including Bloomington, Indiana, fourteen states, and several college and university campuses have officially declared the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS, more than 65 nations are represented at Purdue University, where the Native American Educational and Cultural Center, established in 2007, "is instrumental in nurturing student learning and success and provides educational opportunities for the campus community to learn about Indigenous cultures;" and

WHEREAS, the City of West Lafayette opposes 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, Christopher Columbus was an explorer who initiated genocide upon the Indigenous People that inhabited North America; 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 WEST LAFAYETTE, TIPPECANOE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City of West Lafayette acknowledges the traditional homelands of the Indigenous People that the City is built upon.

SECTION 2. The second Monday in October shall be declared as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of West Lafayette on all city calendars and public platforms that previously recognized that day as Columbus Day.

SECTION 3. The City of West Lafayette will routinely add a land acknowledgement to its newsletters, website, advertisements, letterhead, and publications.

SECTION 4. Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be an opportunity to celebrate the cultures and values that Indigenous Peoples of our region add to the communities in West Lafayette, throughout Indiana, and globally.

SECTION 5. The City of West Lafayette 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 West Lafayette Community School Corporation, Purdue University, Ivy Tech Community College Greater Lafayette, the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Tippecanoe County Commissioners, and the Governor of the State of Indiana.

INTRODUCED ON FIRST READING ON THE 4 DAY OF October, 2021.

MOTION TO ADOPT MADE BY COUNCILOR DeBoer, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR Thomas.

DULY RESOLVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, ON THE 4 DAY OF October, 2021, HAVING BEEN PASSED BY A VOTE OF 9 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED, THE ROLL CALL VOTE BEING:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Blanco	✓			
Brown	✓			
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Kang	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Parker	✓			
Sanders	✓			
Thomas	✓			


 Peter Bunder, Presiding Officer

Attest:

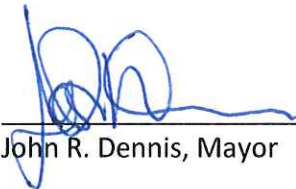

 Sana G. Booker, Clerk



PRESENTED BY ME TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA ON THE 6
 DAY OF October, 2021.


 Sana G. Booker, Clerk

THIS RESOLUTION APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME ON THE 6 DAY OF
October, 2021.


 John R. Dennis, Mayor

Attest:


 Sana G. Booker, Clerk

