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COUNCILLOR OFFERS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY PROCLAMATION

Indianapolis – This morning, City-County Councillor Jason Larrison (District 12) offered a proclamation recognizing today as Indigenous People’s Day in Indianapolis. Standing with Dr. Scott Shoemaker, who is a member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and curator of Native American art, history and culture at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Larrison called recognition of Indigenous People’s Day “long overdue.”

“As Indianapolis celebrates its bicentennial,” Larrison said, “it’s important to remember that this land was home to Native peoples and communities for thousands of years. Our city is named for the State of Indiana, which means ‘Land of the Indians’—but the Miami and Delaware and other Nations were removed from their homelands through treaties and takings. My hope is that we as a city will do a better job reflecting our roots moving forward.”

Standing in front of the Eiteljorg Museum with Councillor Larrison, Dr. Shoemaker offered his appreciation for the effort to acknowledge the past and present realities of Native Americans. “As a Miami person and Miami Tribe of Oklahoma citizen whose people have lived here since time immemorial, whose ancestors signed the numerous treaties ceding the lands that would become the State of Indiana and City of Indianapolis, and as a resident of this city,” Shoemaker said, “I would like to thank the City of Indianapolis for recognizing today as Indigenous People’s Day.”

While the City-County Council has made significant commitments this year to addressing historic inequities of race, place, and identity throughout Indianapolis, Larrison says it’s important to remember “the systemic racism towards Indigenous Peoples, resulting in negative impacts on income, health, education, and social welfare,” saying those impacts must be addressed. Today, though, he hopes that residents will “celebrate the history, cultures, and contributions of these Native peoples, both the ancestors and the descendants.”

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