CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION declaring October 12, 2020 as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Indianapolis.

WHEREAS, the City of Indianapolis is named for and located in the 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 been the home for Native peoples, communities, and advanced social complexes for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, treaties ceding Indigenous territories to the United States, including the 1818 Treaty of St. Mary’s, also called for the systematic dispossession and removal of Native peoples including the Miami, Delaware, Shawnee, Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Wea, Wyandot, and Piankeshaw Nations, creating the opportunity for Euro-American settlement, occupation, and resource extraction which enabled the formation of the State of Indiana and the City of Indianapolis; and

WHEREAS, such legal concepts as the doctrine of discovery, enabled European powers to seize lands inhabited by Indigenous peoples under the guise of discovery, were subsequently upheld and reinforced by American judicial decisions and such beliefs as manifest destiny, which fueled American westward expansion; and

WHEREAS, many people of Indigenous ancestry continue to live in Indianapolis and throughout Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the City of Indianapolis understands that in order to help close the equity gap, government entities, organizations and other public institutions should change their policies and practices to better reflect the experiences of Native American people and uplift our country's Indigenous roots, history, and contributions; 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, towns, and counties, ten states, and many college and university campuses have officially declared the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS, the City of Indianapolis 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 PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AND OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. That October 12, 2020 shall be declared as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Indianapolis.

SECTION 2. Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be an opportunity to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of indigenous people on this land, and to celebrate the cultures and values that Indigenous Peoples of our region add to the communities in Indianapolis, throughout Indiana, and globally.

SECTION 3. The City of Indianapolis strongly encourages local schools, universities, businesses, and other organizations to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day.

This proclamation was sponsored by Councillors Larrison, Barth, Boots, Carlino, E. Evans, Jones, Lewis, Mascari, McCormick and Potts.

Approved and signed by me this 12th day of October, 2020.

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Joseph H. Hogsett, Mayor

ATTEST:

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President, City-County Council

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SaRita Hughes
Clerk of the City-County Council