



Montgomery
County Council

Committee:
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected
Keywords: #IndigenousPeople’sDay

AGENDA ITEM #2U
July 21, 2020
Introduction

SUBJECT

Resolution in support of Indigenous People’s Day
Lead Sponsor: County Council

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- To introduce Resolution – no vote expected

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

- Resolution in support of Indigenous People’s Day

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- None

This report contains:

Resolution ©1
Councilmember Navarro Memorandum ©3

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: July 21, 2020
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Resolution in support of Indigenous People's Day.

Background

1. Columbus Day is observed as a Federal Holiday on the Second Monday in October.
2. In the 2010 Census, 58,657 individuals across Maryland identified themselves as being either wholly or partly of Native American descent, with 21,175 residing in the National Capital Area.
3. The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs recognizes the following tribes: the Accohannock Indian Tribe; the Assateague Peoples Tribe; the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians; the Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians; the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy and Sub-Tribes; the Piscataway Indian Nation; the Pocomoke Indian Nation; and the Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee Indians.
4. Given his well-documented list of crimes committed against Native People, the Council recognizes that the legacy of Christopher Columbus must be reassessed during this time of change in the County.
5. There has been a nationwide call to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the Second Monday in October, in acknowledgement of the past and in commitment to creating a more inclusive future for our Native People. Over 70 jurisdictions and 7 states recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, including the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, Washington, DC, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Portland, Oregon, Davenport, Iowa, Denver, Colorado, Bozeman, Montana, Dallas, Texas, Lincoln, Nebraska, East Lansing, Michigan, Phoenix, Arizona, Long Beach California, Olympia, Washington, Alexandria, Virginia, and Prince George's County, Maryland.
6. In October 2019, a bipartisan group of legislators in the House of Representatives introduced a resolution designating the Second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, representing an important step in recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day at the Federal level.

7. All levels of government are increasingly working to address historic racial disparities, and it is important to elevate previously suppressed voices and to tell an accurate history of how government has interacted with all communities.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. Effective October 12, 2020, the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland recognizes the Second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day and asks that the County Government update its calendars.
2. The County Council calls on the Maryland General Assembly, under the powers granted by the Constitution of the State of Maryland, to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day as an official State Holiday.
3. The County Council urges Montgomery County Public Schools to undergo a review of its curriculum to better incorporate the histories, narratives, and cultures of our country's Native People.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq., Clerk of the Council



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

**COUNCILMEMBER NANCY NAVARRO
DISTRICT 4**

**CHAIR, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
FISCAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

July 17, 2020

TO: County Council

FROM: Nancy Navarro, Member, County Council, District 4

SUBJECT: Indigenous Peoples' Day Resolution

We have entered a new era in our nation's history- old symbols of bigotry are being reassessed and replaced as issues of racial equity and social justice take center stage even during a global pandemic. It is in the spirit of change and reconciliation that I present the attached resolution to recognize the Second Tuesday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Montgomery County, and to instruct our County Government to update its calendars as such. Additionally, this resolution calls on the General Assembly to use its powers granted the Maryland Constitution to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day as a State Holiday, and for Montgomery County Public Schools to undergo a review of its curriculum to better incorporate the histories, narratives, and cultures of our country's Native Peoples.

This is not about erasing history, but instead elevating traditionally silenced voices as part of our historical narrative. Over 70 jurisdictions and 7 states recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, including our own City of Takoma Park and our neighbors in Prince George's County, Washington, DC, and Alexandria, VA. It is time we join our neighbors both in Maryland and throughout the region in recognizing and celebrating the history and cultures of those tribes which have historically called Maryland home: the Accohannock Indian Tribe; the Assateague Peoples Tribe; the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians; the Nause-Waiwash Band

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(3)

of Indians; the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy and Sub-Tribes; the Piscataway Indian Nation; the Pocomoke Indian Nation; and the Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee Indians. These tribes, recognized by the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, deserve to have their stories told. It is my hope that you will all join me in making this resolution a County Council resolution. Please let my Chief of Staff know if you support this resolution and would like to cosponsor it, I look forward to partnering with each of you as we take this important step forward.

CC: Marlene Michaelson, Executive Director, County Council
Craig Howard, Deputy Director, County Council
Amanda Mihill, Attorney, County Council