



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: April 21, 2017

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health & Human Services *VC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Human Relations Commission Letter of Recommendation to Enact a Resolution for the City of Long Beach to Observe Indigenous Peoples Day

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) would like to submit the attached letter to the Mayor and City Council recommending that the City of Long Beach enact a resolution for the City of Long Beach to observe Indigenous Peoples Day.

As the Long Beach City Council's principle advisory commission promoting peace, tolerance, acceptance and mutual respect, the Human Relations Commission requests the City Council of Long Beach to officially observe Indigenous Peoples Day on the 2nd Monday of October, on an ongoing and annual basis.

For further information regarding this Human Relations Commission Recommendation, please contact Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Program Coordinator at (562) 570-6730.

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
REBECCA JIMENEZ, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
KATIE BALDERAS, OFFICE OF EQUITY

KC: TG

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**CITY OF LONG BEACH
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**Miles McNeeley, Chair
LaDawn Best, Commissioner
Nikole Cababa, Commissioner
Gio Ferraro, Commissioner
Otis Hogan, Commissioner
Kimmy Maniquis Commissioner**



**Elaine Bernal, Vice Chair
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Desmond Fletcher, Commissioner
Rohida Khan, Commissioner
Zoe Nicholson, Commissioner
Veronica Quincy, Commissioner**

April 18, 2017

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Enact a Resolution for the City of Long Beach to Observe Indigenous Peoples Day on the 2nd Monday of October, on an Ongoing and Annual Basis.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

The Human Relations Commission requests the City council of Long Beach to officially recognize Indigenous People's Day on the 2nd Monday of October each year.

Currently, several municipalities and states recognize some form of Indigenous Peoples Day, including the states of Vermont and South Dakota and the cities of Phoenix, Seattle, and Denver. By observing Indigenous Peoples Day in place of Columbus Day, an appropriate focus is placed on the genocide, struggles and contributions of Native Americans, instead of celebrating the colonialism and oppression associated with Christopher Columbus.

Long Beach has its own historical ties to Native American history. The Indian village of Puvungna, near Cal State University Long Beach, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. During the 1990s, the Save Puvungna Coalition successfully organized to stop the historical site from becoming a commercial development. The Puvungna grounds remains a sacred site for the Gabrielino/Tongva Indians.

Earlier in the year, local leaders addressed the Human Relations Commission to advocate for official recognition of the contributions and history of indigenous people and Native Americans. During their presentation, they shared how the traditional approach to tribal decision making has a focus on transparency and consensus building. The commission agreed that those were values in line with our commission, and important for the promotion of inclusivity of all people in our local government and our communities.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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As the Long Beach City Council's principle advisory commission promoting better understanding among the diverse ethnic cultural groups in Long Beach, the Human Relations Commission submits to the Long Beach City Council the following recommendation:

The Human Relations Commission strongly urges the Long Beach City Council to enact a resolution for the City of Long Beach to observe Indigenous Peoples Day on the 2nd Monday of October, on an ongoing and annual basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Miles McNeeley, Chair
Human Relations Commission