

August 15th, 2024

Elizabeth Sturges Llerena
3345 74th Street
Jackson Heights, NY
11372

To the Honorable Town Council of Bristol,

Good afternoon. I am writing today to voice my strong support for the Council to approve incorporating a Land Acknowledgement into all official Council and Town business proceedings. (As of this writing I am not yet able to see the details of the agenda item).

Attending the Bristol public schools (with great teachers) from 1974 to 1982, and living in Bristol until 1995, I never heard of the Pokanoket people, the correct name for the people who have inhabited the area for millenia. I heard of the Wampanoags, but just the name. We learned about the Niña, Pinta and the Santa Maria and every November we decorated cutouts of smiling Pilgrims and "Indians" and learned that they had happy lives together. I have distinct memories of being terrified as a very young child at the Fourth of July parade by a white man in brownface dressed like an "Indian" running up to spectators yelling and waving a hatchet.

It is time for our town to show the historic and present stewards of the land Bristol occupies the respect they deserve. Remembering and acknowledging the Pokanoket people and their ancestors' presence and contributions to that land is a first step towards a healthier, more peaceful and whole community.

Thank you in advance for reading and including this correspondence in the Town record.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Sturges Llerena