



**STAFF REPORT**  
**9/9/2020**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** William B. Pattison, Jr., City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2020-51 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Coachella, California, declaring the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day; encouraging other institutions to recognize the day; and reaffirming the City Council's commitment to promote the well-being and growth of Coachella's Indigenous Community.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Review, discuss, and adopt Resolution No. 2020-51 declaring the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, encouraging other institutions to recognize the day, and reaffirming the City Council's commitment to promote the well-being and growth of Coachella's Indigenous Community.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The proposed Resolution would declare the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Coachella, encourage other institutions to do the same, and express the City Council's commitment to promote the well-being of Coachella's Indigenous community. Adoption of this proposed Resolution does not affect the recognition or non-recognition of the second Monday in October as a holiday for City departments and employees.

**BACKGROUND:**

Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas. In 2011, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 59 Tribes from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana and some Alaskan Tribes, passed resolution #11-57 to "Support to Change Columbus Day, (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of October) to Indigenous Peoples' Day."

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

While it is important to recognize the contributions that peoples from all over the world have made to the history of our community, it is equally important to understand and acknowledge that places like the Coachella Valley were originally home to many Indigenous people for thousands of years.

The Coachella City Council recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial and recognizes the fact that the Coachella Valley is built upon the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Peoples of this region, without whom the building of the City would not have been possible. The City Council values the many contributions made to the community through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts and cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the character of the City of Coachella.

The City Council has a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism towards Indigenous people in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises. The City Council promotes the closing of the equity gap for indigenous Peoples through policies and practices that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, and contributions.

The proposed Resolution would express the City Council's strong supports for the proposition that Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be an opportunity to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of the region. The proposed Resolution would encourage other businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and express the City Council's firm commitment to continue its efforts to promote the well-being and growth of Coachella's Indigenous community. The proposed Resolution would declare the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Coachella. Adoption of this proposed Resolution would not affect the recognition or non-recognition of the second Monday in October as a holiday for City departments and employees.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Resolution No. 2020-51