



**PROCLAMATION  
OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS  
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 11, 2021, AS  
“INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ DAY”**

- WHEREAS,** Archeological evidence of the first humans to explore and settle North America some 15,500 years ago has been found in present-day Salado, Texas; and
- WHEREAS,** Among the major tribes that existed in Texas at the time of the first European colonization campaigns were the Caddos, Karankawas, Coahuiltecas, the Lipan and Mescalero-Apache, the Comanche, and the Tonkawa, whose name means “they all live together”. The Tonkawa gathering place was later named Dripping Springs, and their support was critical for the survival of its first settlers; and
- WHEREAS,** Texas is home to the 4,000-year-old rock art mural that some Coahuiltecas believe is their creation story, which some archeologists suggest also includes elements of the Aztec and Huichol creation stories. Before colonization, our state flower was known as Buffalo Clover or Wolf Flower; and
- WHEREAS,** In 1838, President of the Republic of Texas Mirabeau B. Lamar declared an “exterminating war” aimed at obliterating Native Americans, which took place around the same time as the Trail of Tears and forced Indigenous people to hide under the identity of “Mexicans” in order to avoid massacre and remain in their homeland; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1956, Congress established the Indian Relocation Act, and as a result of ongoing systematic warfare by Texas and the United States against Indigenous populations, only three federally recognized tribes still have reservations in Texas: the Alabama-Coushatta, Tigua, and Kickapoo. The Tonkawas are now officially headquartered in Oklahoma; and
- WHEREAS:** Regardless of their tribal affiliations and despite the massacres, forced assimilation, and ongoing attempts at erasure, many Indigenous people have kept their ancestors’ memories, traditions, cultures, and languages alive; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 1977 the International Conference on the Discrimination Against Indigenous People in the Americas first proposed the idea of Indigenous Peoples’ Day, and on October 12, 1992, it was instituted in Berkley, California to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Columbus in the Americas; and
- WHEREAS,** A growing number of communities celebrate the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day, which is a vital step towards acknowledging historic wrongs, creating visibility of Indigenous cultures, and recognizing the role of Indigenous peoples in our collective past, present, and future.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the City Council of Dripping Springs, Texas:**

1. Monday, October 11, 2021, shall be recognized as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” in the City of Dripping Springs; and
2. The City Council invites our citizens to learn about our collective history and honor the truth-telling of Indigenous peoples, who have long advocated for us to embrace a fuller vision of our past, to live sustainably and harmoniously, and to preserve the ecosystem of this sacred earth.

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Bill Foulds, Jr., Mayor