



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

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SUBJECT

Items Relating to the Designation of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Native American Community Update.

B. Resolution 2022-103 Recognizing the Second Monday in October as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” in the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, Acknowledging and Supporting the Native and Indigenous Peoples Living in Fort Collins, and Affirming the City’s Commitment to Recognize and Include the Voices and Interests of Native and Indigenous Peoples in the City’s Commitment to Work Towards Equity.

Members of the Fort Collins Native American and Indigenous community collectively have created a resolution recognizing the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Staff from the Equity and Inclusion Office also will share an update on the work that has been taking place with the Native American community this year.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

A diverse group of Native American community members who drafted the Indigenous Peoples’ Day Resolution will be present to read it.

The staff report will include: 1) context regarding why it is so important to engage the Native American community; 2) priorities identified by the Fort Collins Native American community; 3) updates on work currently in progress; and 4) recommendations for future work.

Recommendations for future consideration include: 1) support for the creation of a Fort Collins Native American community center; 2) creation of a community consultant program to pay community members for their expertise based on lived experience; 3) creation of a City-County Native American Advisory Committee; 4) preparation for future tribal consultation; and 5) support of the Colorado Truth, Restoration, and Education Commission.

Please see below for additional information on section 3-5 of the Resolution. Work is underway; however, the Resolution reaffirms and supports continuous engagement around these efforts.

Section 3- *That the City of Fort Collins will encourage businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize, cultivate strong relationships with, stand in solidarity with, and celebrate Native and Indigenous peoples.*

The Fort Collins Museum of Discovery has a long-standing relationship with both the urban Native community and Tribes with a connection to the area and has collaborated with the Equity Office on recent initiatives and conversations connected to the Native community to ensure alignment throughout the City organization. The Equity and Inclusion Office has also helped to fund events hosted by the Northern Colorado Intertribal Powwow Association (NCIPA). The senior equity specialist is a member of the Native American Advisory Council at Colorado State University, but this connection is dependent on the current staff member remaining in that role and more work needs to take place to establish a more formalized relationship with this group. The Multicultural Business Support Center was established in the Economic Health Office to support community members of color, including Indigenous community members, with startup and nonprofit business needs and capacity-building. This group will be encouraged to engage in intentional outreach to and support of the Native community.

Section 4. *That the City of Fort Collins will explore collaboration with Tribal Nations and the Native and Indigenous community to encourage educational institutions in the city to develop and implement historically accurate and culturally appropriate curricula related to the history, traditions, and current issues of Native and Indigenous Peoples.*

The Equity Office has initiated connections with Poudre School District (PSD) to discuss needs and ways forward to help educators accurately represent history, traditions, and current issues of Native and Indigenous Peoples. As these conversations move forward, it will be critical to involve representatives of the Native community in these discussions. Additionally, it is recommended that the City support and partner with the Indigenous Science, Technology, Arts and Resilience (ISTAR) program, led by Lindsey Schneider at CSU.

Section 5. *The Office of Equity and Inclusion will work on behalf of the City departments to communicate, collaborate, and coordinate with Tribal Nations and the Native and Indigenous community through ongoing outreach, to include their interests and concerns in planning community-led initiatives, to evaluate the impact of City policies and practices on the community, to work to ensure equitable access to opportunities in the City of Fort Collins.*

The Equity Office is working very closely with Native American community members by listening and providing space for the community to organize around their needs and interests. Establishment of a Native American Advisory Circle is important to continued collaborations with the Native community.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The Indigenous Peoples' Day Resolution does not commit the City to any financial action. Recommendations made in the presentation about the work that is happening with the Native American community could have financial impacts, if the City were to engage in future projects.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

There has been a high level of engagement with the Fort Collins Native American and Indigenous community regarding the resolution and on the items covered in the staff report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Presentation