



PROCLAMATION

Office of the Mayor

Native American Heritage Month November 2023

- WHEREAS:** The Lenni-Lenape Native Americans were the original settlers of Middletown. This peaceful Native American tribe lived a hunter-gatherer lifestyle. They grew and cultivated crops such as corn, squash, and tobacco. They hunted and fished using tools made from rocks; and
- WHEREAS:** Some white settlers learned the language of the Lenni-Lenapes, although the settlers' articulations often led to slightly different pronunciation of words. The name Navesink, pronounced by the Lenni-Lenape as *ne-was-ink*, was borrowed from the Native American word for fishing place. On June 8, 1662, the purchase of the first land to become Middletown was recorded in the First Town Book of Middletown. The land, called Chaquasitt, was reported to have been purchased by the settlers from the Lenni-Lenape. These original Middletown settlers were called the Weapsiel Lenapes, or the white people, by the Native Americans. The book also refers to Poricy Brook, the stream which runs into Poricy Pond, as *Choncsis supus Run* and a boundary for five outlots; and
- WHEREAS:** Beach plums, which grow wild on Sandy Hook, were a delicacy of the Lenni-Lenape Native Americans and the colonists alike. Richard Hartshorne, an early Middletown resident, made a pact with the Native Americans to preserve the beach plum plants; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1664, Middletown was settled by the English. Thomas Whitlock purchased land from the Lenni-Lenape Native Americans. More land was purchased by Captain John Bowne, Richard Stout, and 10 others. The town was laid out with two rows of building lots bifurcated by an old American Indian path, which later became Kings Highway; and
- WHEREAS:** Middletown Township's logo is a long-standing symbol of our heritage. It depicts Sachem Popamora, the Lenape chief who was thought to have sold the land that encompassed Middletown to the first settlers. It is a tribute to our past and a reminder to present day residents of those who were responsible for giving us the wonderful place we are fortunate enough to call home. Now,
- THEREFORE:** I, Mayor Tony Perry and the Middletown Township Committee, do hereby recognize November 2023 and every November going forward, as **Native American Heritage Month** in the Township of Middletown. We encourage the community to join us in honoring and thanking those responsible for laying the groundwork for our community.

*Given, under my hand and the Great Seal of the Township of Middletown,
this sixteenth day of October in the year two thousand twenty-three*

Mayor Tony Perry