

Presented By:
Youth Representative Okleasik & Council Member Topkok

Action Taken:
Yes _____
No _____
Abstain _____

CITY OF NOME, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. R-21-04-06

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 5, 2021 AS DAY OF AWARENESS
FOR MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS**

WHEREAS, the City of Nome acknowledges that it is on the traditional lands of the Iñupiat, Yupiit, and St. Lawrence Island Yupik peoples who have lived on these lands since time immemorial;

WHEREAS, the Indigenous People of Alaska and the United States experience disproportionately high rates of violence as a result of colonialism and a history of oppressive laws and policies, which directly correlates to the rise of violence against Indigenous women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the disappearances and murders of Indigenous women and girls is often directly connected to domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking, which is a direct threat to tribal sovereignty and compromises Tribes' ability to heal from historic trauma; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans and Alaskan Natives are 2.5 times more likely to experience violent crimes and at least 2 times more likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes compared to any other group of people in the United States;

WHEREAS, Alaska faces rates of domestic violence and sexual assault that are four times the national average with the statistics for Alaska Native women and girls being even higher; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Alaska Victimization Survey for the Nome Census Area found that 51% of adult women in the Nome Census Area have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in their lifetime, and that 11% had experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence or both in the past year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Nome recognizes that this crisis impacts our region, our community, and our local citizens, and shall never forget the memories of all of the family and friends who have been murdered or gone missing across our region (many of whom are Indigenous women and girls), including:

Beverly Immingan, Nome
Aurora Escholt, Nome
James Moses, Elim/Nome
Donald Adams, Koyuk
Nathan Anungazuk, Wales

Ward Gianna, Brevig Mission
Ernest Saccheus, Elim
Elton Picnalook, Brevig Mission
Matthew Towarak, Unalakleet
Elmer Campbell Jr., Gambell
Justina Kunayak, Diomede
Kevin Goldsberry, Nome
Olin Apatiki, Gambell
Jeffrey Komonaseak, Wales
Archie Henry Jr., Gambell/Koyuk
Allan Alowa, Savoonga/Nome
Lancelot Immergan, Savoonga
Ivadell Kazingnak, Diomede
Sonya Ivanoff, Unalakleet/Nome
Eric Apatiki, Gambell
Joseph Balderas, Nome
Chynelle "Pretty" Lockwood, St Michael
Florence Okpealuk, Nome/Wales; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this crisis, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution in 2020 designating May 5 as National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, in honor of Hanna Harris, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, who was raped and murdered; and

WHEREAS, the City of Nome stands with other tribal, local, regional, state and national governments and organizations in support of National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nome Common Council hereby proclaims May 5, 2021 as Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We encourage other businesses, organizations, public institutions and community members to observe this day and learn and teach others about the acute crisis facing Indigenous Peoples and to especially lift up and support the Indigenous women and girls of our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Nome acknowledges the disproportionately high rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Alaska, and the City and its departments will work to make sustainable investments in creating culturally appropriate approaches that hold the City accountable and will work in cooperation with Alaska Native communities to build trust and engagement for stronger government-to-government relationships.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 26th day of April, 2021.

JOHN K. HANDELAND, Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND, Clerk