Proclamation

WHEREAS, November is the officially recognized month to celebrate and commemorate the heritage of American Indians. It is a time to honor the contributions, achievements, and sacrifices of America's first people, and a time to learn and celebrate the rich cultural and historical legacy of Native people; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have inhabited the area now known as Washington State since time immemorial. Today, twenty-nine federally recognized Indian tribes, out-of-state tribes with treaty-reserved rights, and other tribal communities reside in Washington; and

WHEREAS, Tumwater Falls, where the Deschutes River enters Budd Inlet, was a ceremonial and sacred site of the Steh-chass people, ancestors of today's Squaxin Island Tribe. Their village on Budd Inlet below the falls and the river itself were both named Steh-chass, and the area served as a gathering place for the Squaxin, Nisqually, Chehalis, and many other Indigenous peoples of the Salish Sea; and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe, known as the "People of the Water" are descendants of the Indigenous people who have lived along the shores and watersheds of the seven southernmost inlets of Puget Sound for countless generations and continue to preserve and share their cultural traditions, history, and stewardship of the region's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, whose people have lived in the Nisqually watershed since time immemorial, continues to uphold its cultural traditions and treaty-reserved rights while providing leadership in the stewardship of salmon, waterways, and natural resources throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, comprised primarily of the Upper and Lower Chehalis peoples, have long contributed to the cultural heritage of Southwest Washington and continue to strengthen their community through self-governance, cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tumwater values its government-to-government relationships with the Squaxin Island Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, and Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, and recognizes their enduring presence, sovereignty, and contributions to the history, culture, environment, and future of our region; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Leatta Dahlhoff, Mayor of the City of Tumwater, do hereby proclaim the month of

November 2026

American Indian Heritage Month

and I encourage people to celebrate the rich cultures and traditions of American Indians; honor their enduring contributions and sacrifices; recognize the sovereignty of Tribal Nations; and acknowledge the lasting significance of the Nisqually Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, and all Indigenous peoples in our community and through Washington State.

Signed in the City of Tumwater, Washington, and recognized on this 2nd day of November in the year, two thousand twenty-six.

THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF TUMWATER, WASHINGTON

Leatta Dahlhoff

Leatta Dahlhoff
Mayor