

2024 RES-147
RECOGNIZING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY ON OCTOBER 14, 2024

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day commemorates 12,000 years of survival and renewal of Indigenous people and cultures in the face of political and cultural repression; and

WHEREAS, there are 574 federally recognized tribes living within the United States, with 11 here in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day is an opportunity to remember historical truths about the devastating loss of life, displacement, and oppression of Indigenous people in our county, state, and country, as well as to organize against current injustices and celebrate Indigenous resilience; and

WHEREAS, the land that would later become known as Dane County, Wisconsin, is located on the ancestral and traditional lands of the Ho-Chunk, Sauk, and Kickapoo nations, where Indigenous people and cultures flourished and established sustainable ways of living based on cooperation among neighbors and respect for the land and for all living creatures; and

WHEREAS, these Indigenous people and cultures were disrupted, violated, and destroyed, as much of Dane County and its institutions were built directly upon the original homelands, villages, and sacred sites of the Indigenous peoples of this region; and yet, with great resilience, Dane County's Indigenous residents and their cultures have survived; and

WHEREAS, while Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated annually on the second Tuesday of October, it also is essential to recognize November as National Native American Heritage Month—a time to honor the history, culture, traditions, and contributions of Native Americans. Acknowledging Native American Heritage Month promotes respect and understanding, fosters meaningful dialogue, and encourages collaboration with Indigenous communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors does hereby acknowledge October 14, 2024, as Indigenous Peoples' Day and offers its gratitude to the native people of this hemisphere and this region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors acknowledges its responsibility and reasserts its commitment to oppose the systemic racism toward Indigenous people in the United States—which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, and exacerbates disproportionate health, education, and social crises—and to partner and collaborate with tribal governments and peoples.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors does hereby commit to develop and implement more permanent and visible acknowledgments of Dane County's Indigenous people and cultures, increase communication with its Indigenous residents and with those nations who occupied this land, and promote the culture, language, and traditions of our tribal brothers and sisters across our county.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2024.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk