

RESOLUTION NO. 20171005-032

WHEREAS, October 12, 1492 marks one of the most significant dates to all indigenous people of the Americas – the beginning of the colonization of indigenous people that forever changed their identity, cultures and achievements; and

WHEREAS, numerous cities and state governments within the United States now recognize Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day in an effort to create a path of healing and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, the area around present-day Austin is one of the longest continually inhabited sites in North America and was home to many different groups, bands, and tribes of Indigenous Peoples for at least 13,000 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism towards Indigenous People in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin promotes the closing of the equity gap for Indigenous Peoples through policies and practices that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, honoring the role of Columbus as a historical figure promotes values of intolerance and violence that are still common in today's world and opposed to the values of the citizens of Austin; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Austin City Council hereby declares the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, rather than Columbus Day, in the City of Austin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin affirms its willingness to participate in annual Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations and activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin strongly encourages Austin Area Public Schools to include the teaching of Indigenous Peoples' history.

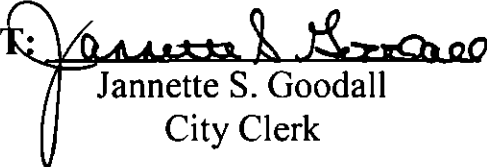
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin encourages other businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin firmly commits to continue its efforts to promote the wellbeing and growth of Austin's American Indian and Indigenous community.

ADOPTED: October 5, 2017

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk