



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2021

Statement on Indigenous Peoples' Day

From members of the Common Council: Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd, Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa, Alderman José G. Pérez, Alderman Scott Spiker and Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic

Today as a city, for the second year in a row, we celebrate and observe Indigenous Peoples' Day, and by doing so recognize the deep and significant contributions that Native Americans have had in our city, our region, and our state for thousands of years.

Two years ago the Common Council adopted legislation officially designating the second Monday of October each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Milwaukee. As a Council, we agreed that it was fundamentally necessary that we honor, acknowledge and celebrate the history, culture and positive impact that Indigenous people have had in our community throughout the ages.

The Menominee, Potawatomi, and Ojibwe have known Milwaukee for centuries before the city saw its first white settlers and became incorporated in 1846, and their contributions to our history, arts, culture and commerce are significant and should be recognized. These tribes showed resilience, determination and perseverance in the face of discrimination, injustice, violence, hate and oppression. Their communities – like thousands of others across our nation – were minimalized and shunned, yet they proudly held their culture and their history sacred, and kept them alive.

We are proud today to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day once again in the City of Milwaukee, as we respectfully reflect on the myriad of positive impacts of Indigenous culture on our community.