



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

Kenneth Reveiz
Alder, Ward 14

Vice Chair
Education Committee

Member, Aldermanic Affairs Committee
Human Services Committee, Youth Services Committee
Black & Hispanic Caucus

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June 26, 2018

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders

Dear President Walker-Myers,

I would like to respectfully submit to the Board of Alders as a Communication, the attached Order calling for permanent recognition of the second Monday in October each year as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” in the City of New Haven. The Indigenous People of the lands that would later become known as the Americas lived here for a very long period of time prior to their so-called “discovery”. Before Europeans arrived, the New Haven area was home to Native Americans such as the Quinnipiac tribe, which lived in villages around the harbor and subsisted on fishing and farming maize. Indeed, New Haven is built upon the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Peoples of this region, without whom the founding of the city in 1638 by English Puritans would not have been possible.

This very diverse city recognizes the many contributions made to our community and its tremendous growth through Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, labor, science, art and culture. New Haven has a responsibility to oppose the continuing systematic racism towards Indigenous Peoples in the United States and internationally, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbates disproportionate health, education, and social stability.

Indigenous Peoples’ Day was proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native nations to the U.N.-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas. In the U.S. and internationally, Native and Indigenous Peoples struggle for sovereignty, respect, and basic needs like water, food, shelter and mental health care, so it is imperative that we send a strong message that we are hearing their voices and are inspired to act.

It is therefore fitting and appropriate that the Board of Alders permanently recognize “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” on the second Monday in October each year, as an opportunity to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous People on this land, and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that Indigenous Peoples add to our city and our nation. I thank colleagues for consideration of this measure, and urge its approval.

Respectfully submitted,

KENNETH REVEIZ
Alder, Ward 14

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ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS CALLING FOR PERMANENT RECOGNITION OF THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER EACH YEAR AS “INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ DAY” IN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.

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WHEREAS: The City of New Haven recognizes that the Indigenous People of the lands that would later become known as the Americas occupied these lands for a very long period of time prior to their so-called “discovery”; and

WHEREAS: before Europeans arrived, the New Haven area was home to Native Americans such as the Quinnipiac tribe, which lived in villages around the harbor and subsisted on fishing and farming maize; and

WHEREAS: the City recognizes the fact that New Haven is built upon the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Peoples of this region, without whom the founding of the city in 1638 by English Puritans would not have been possible; and

WHEREAS: the City recognizes the many contributions made to our community and its tremendous growth through Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, labor, science, art and culture; and

WHEREAS: now a thriving municipality of 130,000 individuals, New Haven prides itself on its very diverse population, and its rich history of tolerance and respect for the human rights, dignity and contributions of all its citizens; and

WHEREAS: New Haven has a responsibility to oppose the continuing systematic racism towards Indigenous Peoples in the United States and internationally, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbates disproportionate health, education, and social stability; and

WHEREAS: Indigenous Peoples’ Day was proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native nations to the U.N.-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS: the United States endorsed the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on December 19, 2010, which recognizes that “indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices” and been subject to “colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources”; and

WHEREAS: Article 15 of the Declaration recognizes the right of indigenous peoples “to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information” and places an obligation on States to “take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society”; and

WHEREAS: in the U.S. and internationally, Native and Indigenous Peoples struggle for sovereignty, respect, and basic needs like water, food, shelter and mental health care, so it is imperative that we send a strong message that we are hearing their voices and are inspired to act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the New Haven Board of Alders that the City of New Haven shall permanently recognize “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” on the second Monday in October each year, as an opportunity to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous People on this land, and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that Indigenous Peoples add to our city and our nation.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the City of New Haven shall continue its efforts to promote the prosperity and well-being of Native Americans and all Indigenous Peoples, and shall encourage other businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day, as a day to annually honor those who first dwelt here and to ensure their contributions are never forgotten.