

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



**Proclamation No. 23-1472
In Observance of the Eighth Annual Indigenous Peoples' Day
in the City and County of Denver**

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples have lived and flourished on the lands known as the Americas since time immemorial and that Denver and the surrounding communities are built upon the ancestral homelands of numerous Indigenous people, including the sovereign nations Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, 46 additional Tribes with legal and historic standing in Colorado, and is home to the descendants of approximately 150 Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the homelands and communities of the Arapaho and Cheyenne peoples along the banks of the Cherry Creek and South Platte River confluence gave bearing to future encampments of newcomers that would become the birthplace of the Mile High City; and

WHEREAS, on October 3rd, 2016, the Council of the City and County of Denver unanimously passed CB16-801, officially designating the second Monday of October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Denver honors the resilience and survivance of Indigenous people despite historical and contemporary barriers that seek to extract, displace, and destroy. It is because of their tenacity and their stewardship of knowledge, land, science, philosophy, arts, and culture that the City of Denver has developed and thrived; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Denver acknowledges that to promote the health, wellness, and safety of current and future generations of the Indigenous community, it is of paramount importance to repair historical and ongoing harm; and

WHEREAS, in one example of promoting healing, wellness, and safety, the Council of the City and County of Denver acknowledges the diligence and persistence of an Indigenous community member that exposed an active and nearly 150-year state policy, the Evans Proclamation, that threatened the safety of the Indigenous community and justified massacre and property theft; and

WHEREAS, through that same Indigenous community member's leadership, brought formal and public rescission of that ongoing trauma, in addition to the renaming of landmarks that attempted to honor the person responsible for this violent legacy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver celebrates and honors the cultural and foundational stewardship of Indigenous People to our past, present, and future; and continues to promote the education to the Denver community about the historical and contemporary legacy of Indigenous People.

Section 2. The City and County of Denver, Colorado, does hereby observe Monday, Oct 9th, 2023, as "Indigenous Peoples' Day."

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Cecilia Duncan Bull Bear, Lakota, from the Pine Ridge Reservation and the Denver American Indian Commission.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 9, 2023

PRESIDENT

