

Proclamation No. 21-1202

In Observance of the Sixth 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 tribes, including the Southern Ute and Mountain Ute tribes of Colorado; and

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

WHEREAS, Colorado encompasses ancestral homelands of 48 tribes and the City and County of Denver, and surrounding communities are home to descendants of approximately 100 tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 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 continues to recognize and value the vast contributions made to the community through Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, science, philosophy, arts and culture, and through these contributions the City of Denver has developed and thrived; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Denver acknowledges that the health, wellness, and safety of our Indigenous community is of paramount importance for current and future generations to thrive and contribute to our community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, in the vein of promoting healing, wellness, and safety, it was an Indigenous community member’s diligence and persistence that exposed an active and nearly 150-year state proclamation that threatened the health and personal safety of the Indigenous community; and

WHEREAS, through that same Indigenous community member’s leadership, brought formal and public rescission of that on-going historical trauma contributor.


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 its cultural and foundational contributions of Indigenous People to our past, present, and future; and continues to promote the education of the Denver community about these historical and contemporary contributions of Indigenous People.

Section 2. The City and County of Denver, Colorado, does hereby observe October 11, 2021 as “Indigenous Peoples Day”.

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Denver American Indian Commission and the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 11, 2021

 _____ PRESIDENT