

October 3rd, 2017

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Enact a Resolution for the City Long Beach to Observe Indigenous People's Day on the 2nd Monday of October, on an Ongoing and Annual Basis

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

The Human Relations Commission requests the city council of Long Beach to officially recognize Indigenous People's Day on the 2nd Monday of October each year.

Currently, several municipalities and states recognize some form of Indigenous Peoples Day including the states of Vermont and South Dakota and the cities of Phoenix, Seattle, and Denver. By observing Indigenous Peoples Day, an appropriate focus is placed on important current and historical events related to the genocide, struggles and contributions of Native Americans.

Long Beach has its own historical ties to Native American history. The Indian village of Puvungna, near Cal State University Long Beach, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. During the 1990s, the Save Puvungna Coalition successfully organized to stop the historical site from becoming a commercial development. The Puvungna grounds remain a sacred site for the Gabrielino/Tongva Indians.

Earlier in the year, local leaders addressed the Human Relations Commission to advocate for official recognition of the contributions and history of indigenous people and Native Americans. During their presentation, they shared how the traditional approach to tribal decision making has a focus on transparency and consensus building. The commission agreed that these were values in line with our commission and important for the promotion of inclusivity of all people in our local government and our communities.

As the Long Beach City Council's principle advisory commission promoting better understanding among the diverse ethnic cultural groups in Long Beach, the Human Relations Commission submits to the Long Beach City Council the following recommendation:

The Human Relations Commission strongly urges the Long Beach City Council to enact a resolution for the City of Long Beach to observe Indigenous Peoples Day on the 2nd Monday of October, on an ongoing and annual basis.