

Strikethrough / underline version

RESOLUTION No.

Adopt actions identified through the Regional Collaborative Land Acknowledgement Project that promote consistent awareness and inclusion of Native people in all City business and more equitable outcomes for Native people (Resolution)

WHEREAS, the City of Portland acknowledges it was and is the home of many tribal nations and a site of trade, travel, and healing for Native people since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, in 1823, the Doctrine of Discovery, emanating from the European colonization of the continents now known as the Americas, was utilized by the U.S. Supreme Court to legalize further invasion and ~~dispossession~~ theft of Native peoples' lands in *Johnson v. M'Intoch*, which remains the law of the land; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 institutionalized the ~~practice~~ theft of removing tribal lands and displacing removal of Native Americans from their ancestral ~~land~~ territories, including all of what is now the Portland, ~~in order~~ Metropolitan area, to ~~make~~ pave the way for white settlement; and

WHEREAS, under the Western Oregon Termination Act of 1954 and the Klamath Termination Act of 1954, ~~many Oregon~~ more than 60 tribes in Oregon had their governments abolished, lands ~~taken~~ stolen, and ~~treaty agreements~~ treaties broken — ~~with more than 60 of the Tribes in Oregon being terminated by the~~ through termination, a federal government in 1953 policy intended to sever the tribal-federal relationship; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland acknowledges that Native people have been displaced from their abundant lands ~~several times~~ homelands throughout history, with the most recent being in the 1950s when Native people were forced from ~~reservations~~ reservation communities and into poor urban areas to find work and to assimilate into mainstream white society which was the intent of government policies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland acknowledges this recent shameful and painful history as a key factor in how Portland has emerged as ~~being in~~ one of the top 25 cities with the largest American Indian ~~and~~ Alaska Native populations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland recognizes the unique and important legal and political status of sovereign tribal governments in the United States and expressly acknowledges the power of these governments as separate and distinct from other organizations of and for native peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Native American community, representing more than 380 tribes from across the country, in Portland and in the surrounding areas exists as a testament to their resilience and resistance; and

WHEREAS, Portland is home to 28 Native organizations run by and staffed with Native people, whose combined resources represent hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in revenue that go to local taxes, businesses and services; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans face deeper economic, social, health, and education indicators ~~challenges~~ in Portland when compared to other communities of color; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that cultural and natural resources and customary use locations are invaluable and critical to the preservation of treaty rights, cultural heritage, and pursuit of traditional lifeways for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution No. 36941 on January 11, 2012, to formalize authentic relationships with Tribal Government Partners and establish government-to-government consultation agreements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution No. 37154 on October 7, 2015 to declare the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Portland and encourage other institutions to recognize the Day; and reaffirm the City's commitment to promote the prosperity and well-being of ~~Portland's~~ the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Indigenous community ~~communities~~; and

WHEREAS, the City created the Tribal Relations Program, currently housed in the Office of Government Relations, to build relationships, promote ~~effective~~ clear and timely communication and coordination, ~~to seek~~ collaborative opportunities, and ~~prevent conflict between the governments~~ establish ongoing diplomatic relations; and

WHEREAS, the City began convening an annual Summit of Tribal and City Elected Leaders and day-long trainings for City and other government employees since 2018; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to institutionalize and develop internal City policies and procedures that support and affirm its commitment to government-to-government consultation with Tribal Government Partners, and that contribute to more equitable outcomes for Native people; and

WHEREAS, non-tribal community organizations and government agencies in many parts of the world are recognizing Indigenous peoples as the land's original inhabitants and are adopting land acknowledgements, formal statements that recognize the ~~unique~~ continued relationship that exists between Indigenous people and their traditional territories, and the unique political status that American Indian/ and Alaska Native people and tribal governments hold; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is leading the Regional Collaborative Land Acknowledgement Project in partnership with the City of Beaverton, City of Hillsboro, Metro, Meyer Memorial Trust, Multnomah County, NW Natural, Oregon Historical Society, Pacific Corp, Portland General Electric, Port of Portland, Portland Trailblazers,

PTM Foundation, Regional Arts and Culture Council, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, and Washington County to develop land acknowledgements to honor the legacy and continued presence of Native Americans in our region and signal a deeper commitment to strengthen meaningful relationships with Tribal Nations and the urban Native community; and

WHEREAS, the Native American population of the Portland Metropolitan Area is over 50,000, ~~descended from~~ representing more than 380 tribes/bands from across the nation, yet only ~~9690~~ out of nearly 7,500 City employees self-identify as Native American; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Oregon Legislature enacted Senate Bill (SB) 13, now known as Tribal History/Shared History, which directs the Oregon Department of Education to create K-12 Native American Curriculum for mandatory inclusion in Oregon public schools and provide professional development to educators; and

WHEREAS, in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Fall Budget Monitoring Process (BMP), City Council approved funding for the Office of Equity and Human Rights to develop curriculum informed in part by SB 13 for a new recurring Tribal Nations and People training for City employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City's future adoption of land acknowledgements shall specify additional actions that result in promoting consistent awareness and inclusion of Native People in all City business in accordance with Resolution No. 36941; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ~~starting October 11, 2021, Indigenous Peoples Day shall be a paid holiday for City of Portland employees~~ the Bureau of Human Resources shall work with Labor partners and City employees to explore exchanging Presidents' Day for Indigenous Peoples Day as a paid holiday by April 1, 2021; employees would be encouraged to spend time self-educating about the issues and injustices facing Indigenous tribal nations, communities, and people and to support Native-owned businesses and community organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Attorney's Office is directed to partner with Portland Parks & Recreation and the Tribal Relations Director to identify and facilitate implementation of an appropriate method or mechanism by which American Indian and Alaska Native gatherings and ceremonies can be conducted in City parks without cost, based on the unique political status of tribal people, in recognition of the inherent Indigenous role of being stewards of the land, and in recognition of the lives and livelihoods forfeited that Portland might exist, and other relevant considerations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Government Relations Tribal Relations Director and Bureau of Human Resources will collaborate to explore the creation of an American Indian and Alaska Native employment preference, and other strategies, to

improve recruitment and retention of American Indian and Alaska Native people and will report back to Council Offices by June 30, 2021 with findings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Equity of Human Rights will partner with the Tribal Relations Director to create a new recurring Tribal Nations and People Training that is mandatory for all City employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all City bureaus will develop annual work plans informed by and in consultation with the Tribal Relations Director, Equity Managers, and the bureaus' Tribal Liaisons, or designated staff members. Work plans shall detail how bureaus will form strategic actions to collaborate with sovereign tribal nations and City service to the urban Native community, and shall be completed with approval by the Tribal Relations Director by April 30th every year, starting April 30, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all City bureaus and offices must provide the Tribal Relations Director with an annual report of their Tribal Relations engagement and outcomes and recruitment and hiring practices that will help inform the annual Tribal Relations Program Report to Council and guide the following year's work by April 30th every year, starting April 30, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this is binding City policy.

Adopted by the Council:

Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Prepared by: Cynthia Castro and Laura John
Date Prepared: December 3, 2020

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of Portland
By

Deputy