



office memorandum

Date: August 4, 2017
To: Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Kristina Bell, Assistant City Attorney *KLB*
Subject: Indigenous Peoples' Day Resolution

BACKGROUND

The Social Justice Committee of the Norman First American United Methodist Church approached the Norman Human Rights Commission ("HRC") to seek its support in requesting that the City adopt a Resolution designating the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Norman.

On April 24, 2017, the HRC voted unanimously to recommend that City Council adopt the proposed Resolution, which is attached to this memorandum as Exhibit 1. The HRC minutes are attached as Exhibit 2.

DISCUSSION

Although advocates have worked to establish an Indigenous Peoples' Day for decades, more cities have recognized it in the last few years. Berkeley, California, was the first major United States city to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day in 1992. Seattle, Washington, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, adopted similar resolutions in 2014. The States of California and South Dakota also recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day. Since 2015, other cities who have passed similar measures include Albuquerque, New Mexico; Lawrence, Kansas; Portland, Oregon; Saint Paul, Minnesota; Olympia, Washington; Alpena, Michigan; and both Carrboro and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Bexar County, Texas, also recognizes Indigenous Peoples' Day.

In Oklahoma, Anadarko was the first city to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day with a Mayoral Proclamation on September 28, 2015. On October 12, 2015, the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association adopted a Joint Resolution recognizing the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day on campus. Oklahoma City University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University also recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day. Efforts to pass a similar resolution failed in Oklahoma City in both 2015 and 2016.

The Resolution would designate the second Monday in October each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day. It would not establish a formal City holiday or close City offices, nor will it address or affect the federal holiday of Columbus Day, which is currently not a City holiday.

The proposed Resolution recommended by the Norman Human Rights Commission is being presented for your review.

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN DECLARING THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY IN THE CITY OF NORMAN; REAFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING AND GROWTH OF NORMAN'S AMERICAN INDIAN AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES; AND PROMOTING DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF NORMAN BETWEEN INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

- § 1. WHEREAS, the City of Norman recognizes that Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, the City of Norman values the many contributions made to our community through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts, and the deep cultural and spiritual contributions that have substantially shaped the character of many of the citizens of Norman; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, the City of Norman promotes policies and practices that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, ensure access and opportunity, and honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, the City of Norman supports the proposition that Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be an opportunity to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our City and encourages businesses, organizations, and public institutions to develop substantive collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities and tribal governments; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, the City of Norman recognizes the beauty and richness of Indigenous cultures, which are a dynamic presence in the City of Norman that attracts visitors from across the state, nation, and world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

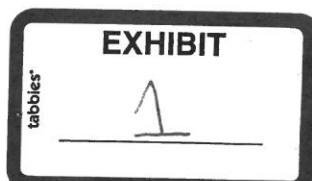
- § 6. THAT the second Monday in October, and every second Monday in October hereafter, be officially designated as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Norman, Oklahoma.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk



NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES
April 24, 2017

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Municipal Complex located at 201 W. Gray Street on April 24, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were duly posted 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Mary Lou Drywater, Daniel Dukes, Kirsten T. Edwards, Jackie Farley, Lucy Mahaffey, Mary Womack

ABSENT: Commissioners Marjaneh Seirafi-Pour, Kay Ham, Harry Wright

STAFF PRESENT: Captain David Teuscher, Officer Ali Jaffrey, Kristina Bell, Sarah Encinias

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Item 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2017, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING.

Acting Chair, Mary Lou Drywater, moved that the minutes of the January 23, 2017, Human Rights Commission meeting be approved, and the motion was duly seconded. A vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Drywater, Dukes, Edwards, Farley, Mahaffey, Womack

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the minutes of the January 23, 2017, meeting were approved.

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Item 3, being:

DISCUSSION OF XENIA INSTITUTE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE REGARDING IMPROVING COMMUNITY AND POLICE RELATIONSHIPS.

Kristina Bell introduced and announced that Norman Police Captain David Teuscher will be promoted to the position of Major and will begin attending HRC meetings as he had done previously in the years of 2007 through 2008. Captain Teuscher attended the Xenia Institute Community Dialog and stated Commissioner Ham was a key moderator of the group. Open communication by the Norman Police Department (PD) was discussed and encouraged by both groups and community interaction concerns from the public were addressed. The Norman PD strives to continue to improve community interaction, acknowledging that the lack of this quality is a problem in parts of the nation. It was observed that mostly older citizens attended the meeting but that it would be ideal if a younger group would also attend to give their points of view.

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Item 4, being:

DISCUSSION OF AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FUTURE PROCLAMATIONS.

A Proclamation recognizing the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month will be presented at tomorrow's City Council meeting and HRC members were highly encouraged to attend. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the proclamation to be presented soon thereafter.

Also discussed was the proclamation to recognize the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on the 26th day of July, the actual day of the anniversary, and then to recognize September as Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month. The Chair moved to approve these proclamations and the committee unanimously approved.

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Item 5, being:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY.

Members discussed various language changes made by the City Attorney to the language of the original proposed Resolution. If passed by the City Council, the Resolution would recognize the second Monday of every October as Indigenous People's Day by the City of Norman. The Commission wishes to make a recommendation to City Council to approve the Resolution and discussion was held about the recommendation for a Study Session in the interim.

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Item 6, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

The Committee recognized the many academic accomplishments of member, Lucy Mahaffey, during her student career at the University of Oklahoma.

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Item 7, being:

ADJOURNMENT.

At this time, the Chair moved that the meeting be adjourned, which motion was duly seconded by the Commissioners. A unanimous vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.