

Dear Council Member:

We are contacting you on behalf of Pittsburgh's Human Rights City Alliance, which is asking members of the Council to adopt the following Draft Resolution to establish Indigenous Peoples Day in Pittsburgh. We are hoping this can happen before December 10th, which is International Human Rights Day. We are holding a press conference on that day to raise awareness about the City's status as a Human Rights City. As you probably know, Pittsburgh became the 5th Human Rights City in the United States in April, 2011. Consistent with that designation and the leadership it represents, we would like to make our city the third major city in this country to honor Indigenous Peoples Day. We appreciate your consideration of this proposed resolution.

Please let us know if you will endorse this draft as written, or if you wish to recommend changes to the language first. Our Alliance's members are now approaching other Council members as well, and we hope the City Council will help make our city a national leader for human rights.

Sincerely,
Human Rights City Alliance Steering Committee

[DRAFT/PROPOSED]
CITY OF PITTSBURGH
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION relating to Indigenous Peoples' Day; declaring the 12th of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Pittsburgh; encouraging other institutions to recognize the Day; and reaffirming the City's commitment to promote the well-being and growth of Pittsburgh's American Indian and Indigenous community, friends and members thereof.

WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that Pittsburgh is built upon the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Peoples of this region, without whom the building of the City would not have been possible; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh values the many contributions made to our community through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts and the deep cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the character of these lands and the City of Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh has a responsibility to oppose the systemic racism towards Indigenous people in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh promotes the closing of the equity gap for Indigenous Peoples through policies and practices that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Pittsburgh declared April 19, 2011, as CITY OF PITTSBURGH HUMAN RIGHTS DAY in an attempt to build infrastructure for racial justice, conflict prevention, human security, sustainable development, and create a place for active engagement at the local, national, and global level to join with other human rights cities that provide leadership and advocacy to secure, protect, and promote human rights for all people;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby affirm its commitment to human rights passing this resolution "Recognizing the 12th of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day", calling upon the City of Pittsburgh to revisit the Human Rights City Proclamation and officially celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day in order to promote tolerance, understanding and friendship, and to overcome prejudice and eliminate discrimination stemming from colonization.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. The City of Pittsburgh strongly supports the proposition that Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be an opportunity to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region.

Section 2. The City of Pittsburgh strongly encourages Pittsburgh Public Schools to include the teaching of indigenous peoples' history as recommended Indigenous communities.

Section 3. The City of Pittsburgh encourages other businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Section 4. The City of Pittsburgh firmly commits to continue its efforts to promote the well-being and growth of Pittsburgh's American Indian and Indigenous community.

Section 5. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Pittsburgh jointly declare the 12th of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Pittsburgh.