

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2018-098
RECOGNIZING THE SECOND MONDAY OF OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield was established in 1856, after Indigenous Dakota and Ojibwe Peoples of the region were forcibly removed from the lands upon which they had lived since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the United States federal government, the State of Minnesota, and the City of Northfield recognize Columbus Day on the second Monday of October, in accordance with the federal holiday established in 1937.

WHEREAS, the idea of 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, in 1990 representatives from 120 Indigenous nations at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day into an occasion to strengthen the process of continental unity and struggle towards liberation, and thereby use the occasion to reveal a more accurate historical record.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The City Council that the City of Northfield shall recognize Indigenous Peoples Day in addition to Columbus Day on the second Monday in October annually hereafter.
2. The City of Northfield encourages businesses, organizations and public entities to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday of October, and “seek to promote practices and policies that honor the state's Indigenous roots, history, and contributions and reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples to insure greater access and opportunity”. (Governor Dayton's Indigenous Peoples Day Proclamation, October 2016).
3. That Indigenous Peoples Day shall be used to reflect upon the history of how Indigenous Peoples have been treated over time, to celebrate the contributions to the thought and culture of the region made by Dakota, Ojibwe, and other Indigenous nations, and to consider the ongoing struggles and sacrifices of Indigenous people on this land.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 2nd day of October 2018.

ATTEST



City Clerk



Mayor

VOTE: Y POWNELL A COLBY Present not voting DELONG Y NAKASIAN
 Y NESS Y PETERSON WHITE A ZWEIFEL



Legislation Text

File #: Res. 2018-098, **Version:** 1

City Council Meeting Date: October 2, 2018

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Ben Martig, City Administrator

Consider Resolution Recognizing the Second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day in Northfield, Minnesota.

Action Requested:

The Northfield City Council is asked to consider the attached Resolution recognizing the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day in Northfield.

Summary Report:

The Human Rights Commission approved a motion at their September 13, 2018 meeting to recommend that the City Council to consider the attached resolution recognizing the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day in Northfield. This is in addition to the recognition of Columbus Day. There will not be a need to approve annually as there is a clause that puts this in as a permanent action unless there is a future resolution changing or amending this action.

The Northfield Historical Society Executive Director Cathy Osterman reviewed the resolution with Sue Garwood from the Rice County Historical Society. Ms. Garwood indicated that there were no Ojibwe in the Northfield area, and as for the Dakota, they never used the Northfield area for long-term living. Traditionally, this area was hunting grounds for them and they would have been transient as far as our specific area, choosing to settle along lakes.

The United States federal government, the State of Minnesota, and the City of Northfield recognize Columbus Day on the second Monday of October, in accordance with the federal holiday established in 1937. In 1990 representatives from 120 Indigenous nations at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day into an occasion to strengthen the process of continental unity and struggle towards liberation, and thereby use the occasion to reveal a more accurate historical record.

Indigenous Peoples Day can be used to reflect upon the history of how Indigenous Peoples have been treated over time, to celebrate the contributions to the thought and culture of the region made by Dakota, Ojibwe, and other Indigenous nations, and to consider the ongoing struggles and sacrifices of Indigenous people on this land.

Alternative Options:

N/A

Financial Impacts:

N/A

Tentative Timelines:

The second Monday of October is October 8, 2018.