

MINNEAPOLIS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

The second Monday in October will now be referred to as "Indigenous People's Day," rather than Columbus Day, on all official city communications in [Minneapolis](#) following a unanimous City Council vote on Friday morning.

The resolution brought hundreds of people to City Hall to commemorate the vote, which Native American activists have been seeking for many years.

"It's been a long time coming," said Clyde Bellecourt, a civil rights organizer. "For me, it's been almost 50 years that we've been talking about this pirate."

The language of the resolution notes that the federal government, state government and city government still recognize Columbus Day "in accordance with the federal holiday established in 1937." City attorney Susan Segal said some ordinances and collective bargaining agreements -- not to mention a few parking meters -- still mention Columbus Day.

But the new holiday will be reflected on city messaging, said city clerk Casey Carl. That includes the official calendar of the City Council and committee meetings.

"This is not necessarily about Columbus. He is not the center of our existence," said Council Member Alondra Cano, who spearheaded the change. "This is about the power of the American Indian people and indigenous communities all over the world. We are setting the record straight."

Both state Rep. Susan Allen and U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison said before the vote that they were interested in making similar efforts at the state and federal level.

"I hadn't thought of it until a young man just said 'What about doing [this] on the federal level?'" Ellison said in an interview Friday. "I said that's an idea. So we're going to be thinking about it now."

Allen, the first Native American woman elected to the Legislature, expressed interest in modifying the state statute recognizing Columbus Day.

"That is definitely something that we're interested in pursuing," Allen said in an interview.

The final resolution was scaled back from another version earlier in the week, which stated that the city should rename Columbus Day itself. The final resolution does not rename Columbus Day, but rather recognizes Indigenous People's Day on the same date.

"I see this as a very small piece of the much larger healing that has to happen in our country so that we can be whole again," said Council Member Cam Gordon.

Minneapolis to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day

The Minneapolis City Council and Mayor Betsy Hodges today unanimously approved a resolution that will recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day in Minneapolis, beginning this year.

Along with the federal government, Minneapolis has for many years recognized the second Monday in October as Columbus Day. Today's resolution recognizes the day as Indigenous Peoples Day, marking and celebrating the significance of the American Indian and Indigenous community in Minneapolis, as well as the city's history of American Indian activism.

The concept of Indigenous Peoples Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native nations at a United Nations-sponsored conference, and has since been adopted in various forms by several cities around the country.

Minneapolis' resolution, in part, states, "The City of Minneapolis recognizes the annexation of Dakota homelands for the building of our city, and knows Indigenous nations have lived upon this land since time immemorial and values the progress our society has accomplished through American Indian technology, thought, and culture."

It goes on to resolve that, "The City of Minneapolis shall continue its efforts to promote the well-being and growth of the Minneapolis American Indian and Indigenous community. ... Indigenous Peoples Day shall be used to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous people on this land, and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that Dakota, Ojibwe, and other Indigenous nations add to our city."

As part of the resolution, the City of Minneapolis also encourages other businesses, organizations and public entities to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day.

RESOLUTION: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-123839.pdf>