

## Legislation Text

---

**File #: 19-708, Version: 1**

---

**Date:** February 14, 2019

**To:** Members of the Human Rights Commission

**From:**

Indigenous People Day Resolution Discussion.

**Action Requested:**

Discussion only.

**Summary Report:**

Mayor Pownell has had discussions with St. Olaf President Anderson and Carleton President Poskanzer to consider a collaborative approach across Northfield including our college campuses to express support for diversity and encouraging words and conduct consistent with being an open safe and welcoming community. Moving forward with a formal ceremony or something similar recognizing indigenous peoples was suggested as a possible way to continue with this goal.

Bruce King, St. Olaf Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity has followed up with Mayor Pownell and Councilor Grabau (Council liaison to the Human Rights Commission) to further explore discussions of planning for some celebration in 2019 for Indigenous Peoples Day. Councilor Grabau has assisted in coordinating Mr. King to attend the Human Rights Commission for this item to have this initial discussion.

Background

In 2018, the City of Northfield approved a Resolution Recognizing the Second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day (see attachment). There was little time to prepare in 2018 but the Human Rights Commission did host a small gathering to celebrate the first Indigenous Peoples Day in 2018. The event was Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Cannon Valley Friends Meeting house at 512 Washington Street.

Additionally, the Human Rights Commission has hosted an annual "International Day of Peace" event in September. In 2018, the Northfield Celebration of the International Day of Peace was on Friday, September 21 and included a presentation at Carleton College from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The focus of this event for 2018 was to highlight cultural elements of Indigenous Peoples in our region with speeches and musical performances. The following are some highlights of the event:

- Opening remarks will be provided by City Councilor Suzie Nakasian (Council President Pro Tem as Mayor Pownell was unavailable) and the Human Rights Commission representative.
- Carleton student Charlie Kilman's short film "Who Are You Now."
- Dorothea Hrossowyc presentation about the people that lived in the area before European settlement, Minnesota's forced removal and ethnic cleansing, the Dakota War of 1862 and "Rescinding the Doctrine of Discovery."
- Larry Johnson of Veterans for Peace spoke about the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice

that ended WWI.

- Daisy Leonard read her award-winning peace essay, "Becoming Comfortable with Being Uncomfortable."
- Clarita Kell will spoke on the commitment to maintaining indigenous traditions and the creation of the Aztec Dancers Group.
- Carleton students of indigenous studies gave presentations.
- Daisy, Coco and Sunny of DCS Academy spoke on the topic of youth as peacemakers.
- Music provided by traditional Irish performers, Bill McGrath and the Justice Choir.

Bruce King, St. Olaf Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity bio (from St. Olaf website)

Before coming to St. Olaf, Bruce King served as assistant vice president for academic affairs and chief diversity officer at the University of South Dakota. He also served as adviser to the president on multicultural affairs at Carleton College from 1993 to 1997, system director for diversity and recruitment for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and school administrator with the Bloomington Public Schools and Northwest Suburban Integration School District in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

He has attended Harvard University's Graduate School of Education Management Development Program and served as a public policy fellow with the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. He has chaired the Associated Colleges of the Midwest's Committee on Minority Concerns and earned a national reputation as a founding member and second vice president of the National Association for Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

**Alternative Options:**

Not applicable

**Financial Impacts:**

None

**Tentative Timelines:**

Monday, October 14, 2019 - Indigenous Peoples Day

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      Y DELONG      Y NAKASIAN  
                 Y NESS      Y PETERSON      A WHITE      A ZWEIFEL



# City of Northfield

City Hall  
801 Washington Street  
Northfield, MN 55057  
ci.northfield.mn.us

## 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.