



Legislation Text

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**Human Rights Commission Meeting Date:** May 24, 2023

**To:** Human Rights Commission

**From:** Risi Karim, Assistant to the City Administrator

Update on the Request of Beyond the Land Acknowledgement Statement Committee Seeking Partnership with Native Communities.

**Action Requested:**

Vote to rescind prior action requesting Council action on seeking partnership with Native Communities.

**Summary Report:**

In early 2022 the Human Rights Commission passed a motion request to City Council to establish a government to government partnership with the Prairie Island Indian Community, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the Lower Sioux Indian Community. See attached memo and prior action for reference. The staff report from the February 10, 2022 HRC agenda item is attached for reference (attachment #1).

Following the passing of this motion City staff engaged in research and careful consideration, we recommend declining the formation of such an alliance for the following reasons:

The city already maintains several established mechanisms for communication, consultation, and collaboration with Native American communities. These mechanisms have proven to be effective in addressing concerns, fostering dialogue, and developing informal relationships. Given the effectiveness of these existing channels, a formal government alliance / partnership may not provide significant additional benefits. Meaningful engagement and consent from impacted communities are a vital part of any project that the city embarks on. Rather than pursuing a formal government alliance, we recommend exploring alternative strategies to enhance collaboration and relationships with the Native American communities. This could include strengthening existing communication channels, supporting cultural initiatives, and engaging in regular consultations to address shared challenges.

Based on these considerations, we believe that declining a formal governmental partnership is a prudent decision at this time. Instead, we recommend reinforcing our current collaborative mechanisms, respecting tribal sovereignty, and engaging in meaningful community consultations to ensure effective and inclusive collaboration with Native American communities.

We remain committed to fostering strong relationships with Native American communities and promoting cultural understanding, social equity, and mutual respect within our city.

I will be in attendance at the meeting to explain and answer any questions.

**Alternative Options:**

N/A

**Financial Impacts:**

N/A

**Tentative Timelines:**

N/A