

Resolution No.: 19-563  
Introduced: July 21, 2020  
Adopted: July 28, 2020

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: County Council

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**SUBJECT:** Resolution in support of Indigenous People's Day

**Background**

1. Columbus Day is observed as a Federal Holiday on the Second Monday in October.
2. In the 2010 Census, 58,657 individuals across Maryland identified themselves as being either wholly or partly of Native American descent, with 21,175 residing in the National Capital Area.
3. The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs recognizes the following tribes: the Accohannock Indian Tribe; the Assateague Peoples Tribe; the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians; the Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians; the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy and Sub-Tribes; the Piscataway Indian Nation; the Pocomoke Indian Nation; and the Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee Indians.
4. Given his well-documented list of crimes committed against Native People, the Council recognizes that the legacy of Christopher Columbus must be reassessed during this time of change in the County.
5. There has been a nationwide call to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the Second Monday in October, in acknowledgement of the past and in commitment to creating a more inclusive future for our Native People. Over 70 jurisdictions and 7 states recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, including the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, Washington, DC, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Portland, Oregon, Davenport, Iowa, Denver, Colorado, Bozeman, Montana, Dallas, Texas, Lincoln, Nebraska, East Lansing, Michigan, Phoenix, Arizona, Long Beach California, Olympia, Washington, Alexandria, Virginia, and Prince George's County, Maryland.
6. In October 2019, a bipartisan group of legislators in the House of Representatives introduced a resolution designating the Second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, representing an important step in recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day at the Federal level.

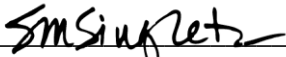
7. All levels of government are increasingly working to address historic racial disparities, and it is important to elevate previously suppressed voices and to tell an accurate history of how government has interacted with all communities.

**Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. Effective October 12, 2020, the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland recognizes the Second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day and asks that the County Government update its calendars.
2. The County Council calls on the Maryland General Assembly, under the powers granted by the Constitution of the State of Maryland, to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day as an official State Holiday.
3. The County Council urges Montgomery County Public Schools to undergo a review of its curriculum to better incorporate the histories, narratives, and cultures of our country's Native People.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

  
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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council