

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield recognizes the Indigenous peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have lived on these lands since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the City honors the fact that the City of Springfield is built upon the traditional homelands of the Kalapuya peoples and recognizes the inherent sovereignty of the nine federally recognized tribal nations in the State of Oregon and all Indigenous peoples everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the City values the many contributions made to our community through Indigenous peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts and the deep cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the character of the City of Springfield; and

WHEREAS, the City has a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism and colonization toward Indigenous people in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises; and

WHEREAS, 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, the City is committed to protecting and advocating for justice, human rights, and the dignity of all people who live and work in Springfield and vows to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "Declaration") endorsed by the United States on December 16, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples "to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information,"¹ and places an obligation in States to "take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society,"²

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean VanGordon, Mayor of the City of Springfield, Oregon, proclaim the second Monday in October to be Indigenous Peoples' Day, and ask the citizens of Springfield to utilize this day as an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing struggles of Indigenous people of this land, to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region, and to stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples elsewhere; encourage other businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday in October; and commit to continue efforts to promote the well-being and growth of Springfield's Indigenous community.



Sean VanGordon
Mayor



¹ United Nations General Assembly. 2007. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Art. 15 ¶ 1.

² Id. at Art. 15 ¶ 2.