

Richland County Rules and Resolutions Committee & Ethics Board

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Native American Heritage Month

Department	n/a (County Board)	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	11/4/21	Action Needed:	Resolution
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Committee Structure, Section D
Date submitted:	11/3/21	Referred by:	None

Recommendation and/or action language:

Recommend a motion, to present a resolution to the County Board celebrating Native American Heritage Month.

Background:

Attached are two documents. Attachment A comes from the Ho-Chunk Nation, illustrating where tribal members live across the state, as well as legislative districts for their government. Attachment B is guide to Wisconsin's First Nations, showing the state's tribes and their current lands.

Regarding Native American Heritage Month, the following comes from the website <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/>:

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans" and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kans., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994.

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A Resolution Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

WHEREAS Native American Heritage Month has been celebrated across the country since the 1990, when President George H.W. Bush signed a joint resolution recognizing November as National American Indian Heritage Month, and

WHEREAS people of Native descent make up 1.2% of Richland County's residents, with 211 out of 17,304 residents identifying as Native in the 2020 Census, and

WHEREAS people of Native descent are critical to the economy, culture, and history of Richland County, and,

WHEREAS the most well-known Native site in Richland County is Sacred Hills (Xee Waka Cak), also known as Frank's Hill, which are burial mounds including representations of local wildlife.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the County Board hereby celebrates Native American Heritage Month, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board encourages residents to learn about and embrace the historical and cultural contributions of Native Americans in Richland County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

Attachments and References:

Attachment A: Ho-Chunk Population Map
Attachment B: Wisconsin First Nations Map

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)
