

Proclamation

Indigenous Peoples' Day October 9, 2023

WHEREAS, Redwood City sits on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ohlone peoples, who are descendants of the many village sites throughout the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, since the arrival of the Spanish in 1769, village sites were decimated and thereafter California Indians have endured a long and well-documented history of oppression, violence, displacement, enslavement, forced assimilation, religious conversion, and discrimination; and

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, members of the Ohlone nation continue to live along the San Francisco Peninsula, and have been for thousands of years.

WHEREAS, members of the Ohlone nation continue to steward the land research cultural land management practices; preserve traditions, and share their history and culture; in an effort to honor their ancestors, Mother Earth and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Redwood City is dedicated to opposing systemic racism against all people including Indigenous People in this community and across the nation, and endorses the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which recognizes that "indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories, and resources" which perpetuates oppression, exclusion and socioeconomic disparities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Redwood City values the progress our society has accomplished through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, technology, thought, science, philosophy, and artistic contributions, and also recognizes the deep historic, cultural, and contemporary significance of the Indigenous Peoples of the lands; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Native and Indigenous Peoples Initiative provides support and builds a safe environment for the Native and Indigenous community in our county, be appreciating and respecting Native American history, culture, and spiritual and healing practices. Through their work, they reduce stigma, provide assistance in accessing health care and establish ongoing training opportunities and events for behavioral health staff and community partners.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, JEFF GEE, MAYOR OF REDWOOD CITY, on behalf of the City Council and the people of Redwood City, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2023 as Indigenous Peoples' Day and implore the community to reflect upon the resistance and resilience of Indigenous Peoples in the face of ongoing struggle and injustice and to celebrate the lasting culture and value that the Ohlone nation and other Indigenous Nations add to our city. In doing so, Redwood City commits to lifting the voices of Indigenous residents in Redwood City creating a place of inclusion. We further encourage other businesses, organizations, and public entities to also recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day in support of our Indigenous neighbors and friends.

Date: October 9, 2023




Jeff Gee, Mayor


Lissette Espinoza-Garnica, Vice Mayor


Alicia C. Aguirre, Council Member


Kala Eakin, Council Member


Diane Howard, Council Member


Elmer Martinez-Sabollos, Council Member


Chris Sturken, Council Member