

PROCLAMATION

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH Annually in the Month of November

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park recognizes and celebrates Native American Heritage Month each November to honor the history, contributions, and cultures of Native American, Alaska Native, and Indigenous peoples, who were the first inhabitants of this land and continue to contribute to our nation's rich diversity; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Native American Heritage Month has its roots in 1916 when the first American Indian Day was celebrated in New York, following an effort by Red Fox James, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, who rode across the United States to gather support from 24 state governments for a day honoring American Indians. Decades later, in 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a resolution designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month, an annual tradition continued in honor of Native American culture and history; and

WHEREAS, today more than 7 million Native American and Alaska Native people live across the United States, representing more than 570 federally recognized tribes, each with distinct languages, customs, and histories that continue to shape and enrich our shared society; and

WHEREAS, the Native American community includes thousands of veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, embodying a long-standing commitment to the values of service, courage, and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Native American communities have demonstrated extraordinary resilience and leadership, protecting natural resources, preserving cultural knowledge, advancing education, and contributing to art, science, governance, environmental stewardship, and public service; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park acknowledges the importance of honoring Indigenous voices and perspectives, and remains committed to fostering understanding, respect, and reconciliation through education, cultural celebration, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month serves as a reminder of the enduring strength, wisdom, and cultural legacy of Indigenous peoples, and an opportunity for residents to learn about, celebrate, and honor the invaluable role Native Americans continue to play in shaping our shared history and future; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park reaffirms its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for all residents, recognizing the importance of celebrating and learning from the cultural richness of Native American and Indigenous communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park, along with the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2025 as **Native American Heritage Month** in the Village of Oak Park and encourage all community members to recognize the significance of this month and join us in celebration of the vibrant heritage, traditions, and contributions of Native peoples.

DATED this 11th day of November 2025.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk