

PROCLAMATION

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY – OCTOBER 13, 2025

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park recognizes the Indigenous People of the lands which would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since ancient times; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park, in alignment with its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Statement, reverently recognizes that the land on which we live, learn, play, and work was first the original homeland of numerous Native Nations. These sovereign Indigenous tribes were unjustly displaced from their ancestral lands through colonial force and systemic removal. We acknowledge this painful history as a necessary foundation for our ongoing work to build a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community, one that begins with truth, recognition, and accountability for the harm, hardships, and injustices experienced by Indigenous peoples. Nevertheless, Native communities remain resilient, steadfast, and deeply rooted in their cultural traditions, rich histories, and unwavering advocacy to protect and preserve their sacred lands. We honor this legacy by strengthening our commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and the protection of this biodiverse land for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park recognizes the value of many contributions made to our community and the United States of America through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, labor, spirituality, technology, science, philosophy, arts, and the deep cultural contribution that substantially shaped the character of our country; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park has a responsibility to promote and honor our nation's Indigenous history and contributions of the Indigenous People to our village, our state and our country; 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 United States endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "Declaration") on December 16, 2010 and the Declaration recognizes "indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization, and dispossession of their lands, territories, and resources"; and

WHEREAS, Article 15 of 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" and places an obligation on 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"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has taken measures to protect the rights and heritage of Native and Indigenous peoples, including the enactment of the Human Remains Protection Act (HB 3413), which establishes procedures for discovering and returning human remains to Native nations; and SB 1446, which prohibits schools from banning students from wearing cultural or Native regalia at graduation; and HB 1633, which requires Illinois public schools to include Native American history, covering sovereignty, forced relocation, cultural contributions, and the impact of discrimination, in their curriculum beginning with the 2024-25 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the Village of Oak Park shall recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, October 13, 2025, and each year thereafter on the second Monday in October, and encourage the community to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous People on this land, and to celebrate the thriving culture and value of the Indigenous People.

DATED this 14th day of October, 2025.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk