

# 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 and Alaska Native 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**, Native Americans and Alaska Natives represent a vital part of the United States, with a population of 7.4 million in 2023, projected to grow to 9 million by 2060, contributing significantly to our society through their rich cultural traditions, languages, art, and heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 574 federally recognized tribes across the United States, 325 federally recognized American Indian reservations, and 221 Alaska Native village statistical areas, reflecting the diverse and unique communities that make up Native America; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native American community includes 120,476 veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, embodying a long-standing commitment to the values of service and sacrifice; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oak Park acknowledges the contributions of Native American and Alaska Native communities to our shared history and supports their right to maintain and celebrate their distinct cultures and identities; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American Heritage Month is a time for the Village of Oak Park to reflect on the importance of Native voices in our society, recognizing their continued contributions in areas such as art, education, governance, environmental stewardship, and community development; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oak Park is committed to fostering a community that values diversity, inclusion, and respect for all, acknowledging the resilience, strength, and wisdom of Native Americans and the ways they enrich our society.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village of Oak Park supports the celebration of Native American Heritage Month, and

**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 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.

**DATED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.

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Vicki Scaman, Village President

**ATTEST**

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Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk