

# PROCLAMATION

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY – OCTOBER 14, 2024

**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 adopted the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statement for 2024, the Village of Oak Park reverently recognizes this land that we live, learn, play, and work on was first the original homelands of numerous Native Nations. These indigenous sovereign tribes were unjustly removed from their ancestral land through colonial force. We acknowledge this painful history to ground the work of becoming a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community beginning with recognition and acknowledgment of the harm, hardships, and horrors experienced by the Indigenous community. Nevertheless, the Native American community remains steadfast and enduring in their cultural traditions, rich histories, and relentless advocacy to protect and preserve their sacred homelands. May we atone by honoring this land through our commitment around sustainability and overall environmental well-being for all that inhabit this biodiverse land; 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 recent measures in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples. Governor J.B. Pritzker signed three bills today offering increased protections for Native and Indigenous Illinoisans. HB 3413, the Human Remains Protection Act, establishes procedures for encountering human remains or gravesites and returning remains to Native American Nations. SB 1446 prohibits schools from banning students from wearing cultural regalia as graduation attire. HB 1633 mandates instruction on Native American history in Illinois public schools.

**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 14, 2024, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

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Vicki Scaman  
Village President

**ATTEST:**

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Christina M. Waters  
Village Clerk