

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Proclamation Recognizing Native American Heritage Month		
DEPARTMENT:	Community Services		
PRESENTED BY:	Sunil Tolton, Recreation, Cultural and Community Services		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proclamation

ISSUE STATEMENT:

[Native American Heritage Month](#) had its start in the early 1900s with the advocacy of Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian and director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, New York. Dr. Parker sought to have a day for the “First Americans”. In 1915, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe and president of the Congress of the American Indian Association, called on the United States to recognize the second Saturday in May as American Indian Day. Over the years, “American Indian Day” was observed in different months. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as “National American Indian Heritage Month” and the recognition has continued every year since 1994. Also referred to as “American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month,” the month highlights an opportunity to learn about and celebrate Indigenous cultures, traditions, histories, and the many contributions made by Native Americans today.

An estimated 8.7 million people identified as American Indian or Alaska Native alone, or in combination with other racial categories ([2021 U.S. Census ACS 5-Year Estimates](#)), representing 2.6% of the population. Approximately 0.5% of Shoreline’s population identifies as American Indian or Alaska Native. There are 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington, out of the total of 574 tribes recognized in the U.S. The process for receiving federal recognition is complex and requires extensive anthropological research and documentation of a tribe’s history and genealogy. More than 200 tribes nationwide, such as the local Duwamish Tribe, Snohomish Tribe, and Chinook Nation, continue to seek federal recognition which would allow access to federal resources and services.

The United States has a long history of harmful actions and policies designed to displace and eliminate Native Americans in order to seize land. The historical and continued impact has resulted in loss of language and culture, fragmentation, marginalization, and genocide. Native communities have high poverty and unemployment rates, and lower income, health and education outcomes. Despite these challenges, Native communities still flourish and work hard to support and improve the lives of their tribal members. Tribes provide many opportunities and services, including

arts, culture and educational programs; environmental sustainability and protection of natural resources; housing, health and social services; public safety services; transportation and utilities; and business and economic development programs. To be truly supportive of Native Americans requires learning and understanding history and the resulting impacts that continue to this day, sharing resources, and understanding the current issues affecting local Native tribes and Indigenous organizations. Issuing a Native American Heritage Month Proclamation is one simple action to honor and show respect.

RECOMMENDATION

The Mayor should read and present the proclamation.

Approved By: City Manager **JN** City Attorney **MK**



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month is recognized annually to honor Indigenous cultures, histories, traditions, art, and achievements; and

WHEREAS, in the face of broken treaties, violent displacement, and genocide, Native Americans have persevered and continued with remarkable strength, resistance, resilience, and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans, including local Duwamish, Muckleshoot, Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Suquamish, Tulalip, and many others have been protectors and stewards of our natural resources and environment since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreline values the many contributions made to society by Native people in technology, science, philosophy, the arts; and especially our local Indigenous volunteers and leaders; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreline recognizes that we must work to combat the impacts of discrimination and racist policies on Native people, past and present, and eliminate inequities stemming from colonization;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith Scully, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, recognize that November is

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

In the City of Shoreline and encourage all residents to learn more and support the work of Native people and organizations.

Keith Scully, Mayor