



Village Manager's Office

SUBJECT: 2021 National Native American Heritage Month Recognition Proclamation

MEETING DATE: November 23, 2021

FROM: [Alex Arteaga](#), Management Analyst
[Erik Hallgren](#), Assistant Village Manager

BUDGET IMPACT: None

Recommended Motion

Proclamation designating the month of November 2021 as National Native American Heritage Month in the Village of Wilmette.

Background

The Village's Human Relations Commission has endorsed Village proclamations recognizing the celebration of various cultural groups including National Native American Heritage Month. As such, staff wanted to provide the Village Board with pertinent information regarding the history of this celebration.

The observation of National Native American Heritage Month started in 1915 at the annual meeting of the Congress of the American Indian Association. The group formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day, resulting in a proclamation being issued on 9/28/1915. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994. The Month of November was selected since it concluded the traditional harvest season and is traditionally a time when many indigenous communities hold cultural celebrations.

National Native American Heritage Month is observed annually in November to celebrate the contributions that members of the Native American community have made to American history, society, and culture.

In proclaiming National Native American Heritage Month, Wilmette residents are encouraged to learn more about various indigenous communities and to celebrate this month with appropriate programs and activities. National Native American Heritage Month information and

resources can be found at <https://native-land.ca/> and <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>.

Documents Attached

1. 2021 National Native American Heritage Month Proclamation



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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, all residents deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, compassion and justice regardless of gender, age, race, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, or sensory ability; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Wilmette supports the rights of every individual to experience equality of treatment and values our diverse population of residents, businesses, and visitors, recognizing that this diversity is one of this community's greatest strengths; and,

WHEREAS, November is annually celebrated as National Native American Heritage Month and recognizes the conclusion of the traditional harvest season and is traditionally a time when many indigenous communities hold cultural celebrations; and

WHEREAS, The Village of Wilmette is located on historic Potawatomi lands and Archange Quilmette was of Potawatomi ancestry, and people of Native American Heritage have made valuable contributions to the growth of the United States and their local communities and it is critically important that we recognize their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, individuals are encouraged to learn about the Native American community and to celebrate this month to recognize the contributions that Native American individuals have made to our society. Resources can be found at <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Senta Plunkett, Village President of Wilmette, Illinois, proclaim November 2021 as National Native American Heritage Month and call upon all people of Wilmette, Illinois, to learn more about various indigenous communities and to celebrate this month with appropriate programs and activities.

Dated this 23rd day of November 2021.

Senta Plunkett
Village President