

A Resolution Recognizing the Second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia

October 5, 2021

WHEREAS, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia (ACCUG) recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have inhabited these lands since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Athens-Clarke County (ACC) area encompasses ancestral homelands of Indigenous Peoples' Nations; and

WHEREAS, ACCUG recognizes the fact that the City of Athens, the University of Georgia, and Athens-Clarke County are all built upon the homelands and towns of the Indigenous Peoples of this region; and

WHEREAS, ACC has benefited directly from Indian removal policies that violated human rights, broke government treaties, and forced Cherokee and Muscogee (Creek) People from their homeland; and

WHEREAS, facing and acknowledging our past, the good as well as the bad, makes our community stronger and more resilient; and

WHEREAS, ACCUG recognizes and values the many contributions made to our community through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts, and deep cultural contribution; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and other Indigenous Peoples in and from the Athens-Clarke County area have, as in all parts of the Americas, endured centuries of cruelty, exploitation, and genocide; and

WHEREAS, ACCUG has a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism towards Indigenous Peoples in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises; and

WHEREAS, ACCUG desires to promote the closing of the equity gap for Indigenous Peoples through policies and practices that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored by the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of United States cities, counties, and states have recognized the second Monday of October as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” reimagining Columbus Day as an opportunity to celebrate indigenous resiliency;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor & Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, as follows:

Section 1. Those now living on these ancestral lands recognize that harm was done and acknowledge that we have a shared responsibility to forge a path forward to recognize and redress the past and continuing harm to the Indigenous Peoples and the land.

Section 2. In the pursuit of shared responsibility and of promoting knowledge about Indigenous Peoples, unifying communities, combating prejudice and eliminating discrimination against Indigenous Peoples, the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government does hereby resolve the second Monday in October of each year to be Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Section 3. On the second Monday in October of each year the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government will support events that encourage understanding and appreciation of Indigenous Peoples, their traditions and culture, and our shared history in these ancestral lands.

Section 4. The Mayor and Commission direct the County Manager to work with the Office of Inclusion and ACC departments, Indigenous people, and historians to correct omissions of the Indigenous Peoples’ presence in public places, resources and cultural programming.
