



City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Mayoral Proclamation

Indigenous Peoples' Day

- WHEREAS,** Columbus Day is observed as a federal holiday on the second Monday in October; and
- WHEREAS,** the day recognizes the October 12, 1492 landing of Christopher Columbus on an island in the Caribbean, marking the Europeans' first intrusion into the Americas; and
- WHEREAS,** this contact began centuries of colonization on lands already settled by Native peoples and exploitation of the America's resources; and
- WHEREAS,** Indigenous Americans experienced conquest, enslavement, displacement, and disease which decimated the population; and
- WHEREAS,** Takoma Park now sits upon the ancestral homelands of the Nacotchtank, Tauxenent, and Piscataway peoples and indigenous people make their homes in this city today; and
- WHEREAS,** the City Council recognized the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day by adopting Resolution 2017-39, re-imagining Columbus Day as an opportunity to celebrate indigenous heritage and resiliency; and
- WHEREAS,** although it is a federal holiday, Columbus Day is not a holiday for City of Takoma Park employees and City government functions and meetings continue on their usual schedule; and
- WHEREAS,** recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day serves as a reminder to reflect on the Native people, past and present, who have cared for this land over millennia.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, on behalf of the City Council, staff, and residents, hereby proclaim October 11, 2021 as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Takoma Park to acknowledge and celebrate the culture and sacrifice of the first people on this land.

Proclaimed this 6th day of October, 2021.

Kate Stewart
Mayor