

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE SECOND MONDAY OF OCTOBER SHALL
ALSO BE KNOWN AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY**

WHEREAS, a better future should not be built on an unacknowledged past; and

WHEREAS, the City of Troy encompasses ancestral homelands of Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples are celebrated for their traditional values that include respect for the interdependence of humanity and all living things, spiritual practices that recognize the profound significance of ancestral lineages, and a broad diversity of knowledge and perspectives, including sustainable environmental practices; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples have long understood that humans are part of and dependent upon the natural world, which provides the necessities of life — air, water, food, and shelter — and also nourishes the human spirit, thereby enabling humans not merely to exist, but also to flourish; and

WHEREAS, the primacy of this relationship with Nature was recognized by Indigenous Peoples in this region long before the City of Troy was founded, as Native American Tribes considered the lands they lived upon to be sacred; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Region is part of the traditional homelands of the Mohican tribes, *i.e.*, Eastern Algonquin speaking peoples whose descendants include the Stockbridge Munsee, Ramapough Munsee Lenape First Nations, Schaghticoke First Nations, and others; and

WHEREAS, the area of the City of Troy, located at the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, was part of a historically significant trade route, and an important place of settlement and meeting for many Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, the European invasion and conquest of Indigenous Peoples in all parts of the Americas involved centuries of cruelty, exploitation, forced removal, and genocide; and

WHEREAS, many Indigenous Peoples of the Northeast were removed by force or treaty from their traditional homelands; and

WHEREAS, in April 1676, a Board of Commissioners headed by Governor Andros, the first English Governor of New York, and his counselors, judges, and clergy, traveled to a large Mohican village on the Hoosick River to participate in a Witenagemot (“Council of the Wise”) with more than 1,000 Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Witenagemot was convened on lands at or near where the Knickerbocker Mansion in Schaghticoke is now located; and

WHEREAS, the resultant Witenagemot Peace Treaty of 1676 settled nearly 50 years of warfare between the Mohawk and Mohican tribes and established a link of friendship between the European colonists around Albany and the Indigenous Mohawk, Mohican, and Hoosac Peoples, and provided refugees from King Philip’s War in New England with lands in the Schaghticoke area where those displaced Indigenous Peoples could settle and live peaceably; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate the Witenagemot Peace Treaty, two white oak trees were planted – one for the Mohawk and one for the Mohican – one of which, known as the Witenagemot Oak Peace Tree, stood until 1949; and

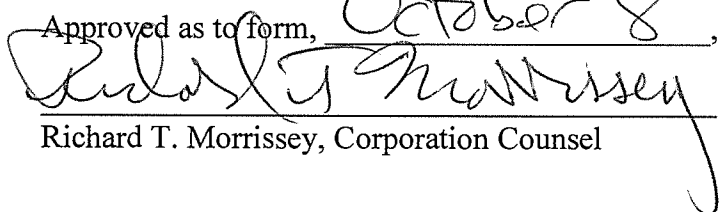
WHEREAS, the City of Troy throughout its history has been a refuge for displaced peoples from across the globe; and

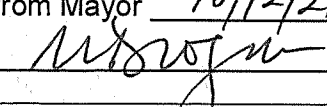
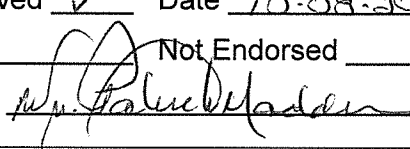
WHEREAS, the City of Troy like the Indigenous Peoples who first inhabited these lands recognizes that it has a responsibility for environmental stewardship not only in furtherance of public health and safety, but also in order to flourish as a community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Troy desires to honor the Indigenous Peoples who first settled these lands, and to follow their example.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the second Monday of October shall also be known as Indigenous Peoples’ Day in the City of Troy, to honor Indigenous Peoples; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in honor of the 1676 planting of the Witenagemot Oak Peace Tree and in furtherance of the values and meaning originally ascribed to it, the City shall plant a white oak tree in a prominent location in Troy as a symbol of the City’s commitments to maintain peaceful and respectful relations among neighbors, to welcome the displaced of humanity among us, and to fulfill our shared responsibility for the environmental stewardship of these shared homelands, that all may flourish.

Approved as to form, October 8, 2021

Richard T. Morrissey, Corporation Counsel

AYES: 7	NOS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
Troy City Clerk		Executive Action	
Sent to Mayor <u>October 8, 2021</u>		Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date <u>10-08-2021</u>	
Received from Mayor <u>10/12/21</u>		Veto <input type="checkbox"/> Not Endorsed <input type="checkbox"/>	
City Clerk <u></u>		Mayor <u></u>	