Office of the Mayor Fairfield, California

Proclamation

Native American Heritage Month

November 2024

Whereas, November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate rich diverse cultures, traditions, and histories, acknowledging the important contributions of Native people; and

Whereas, it is also important to educate the public about various Native American tribes, to raise awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced historically, and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to overcome and conquer these challenges in spite of inequitable systems; and

Whereas, we can most effectively address the historical and continued challenges of Native people through a sustained effort to effect real change, through historical acknowledgement, honest and accurate education, visibility and inclusion of Indigenous people in our neighborhoods and communities, including public and private institutions; and

Whereas, California has the highest number of Native Americans, with a population of 1,090,450, comprising about 2.6% of its total population as of 2023; and

Whereas, the Suisunes (also called the Suisun and the "People of the West Wind") were a Patwin tribe of Wintun people, originating in the Suisun Bay and Suisun Marsh regions of Solano County; historians estimate they lived in this region for 4,000 years; and

Whereas, Sem-Yeto was a leader of the Suisunes, was baptized as Francisco Solano at the San Francisco Mission, and was also known as Chief Solano, whom Solano County is named after; and

Whereas, the Suisunes' main village, Yulyul, is located in the greater Rockville Park area and Suisun Valley Road, where petroglyphs and acorn grinding rocks can still be found.

Now, therefore, I, Catherine "Cat" Moy, Mayor of the city of Fairfield, do hereby proclaim the month of November as "Native American Heritage Month" in the city of Fairfield, and encourage the community to learn more about the people who first called this city, county, state, and nation "home."

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.

Mayor: Cathy M. Moy

Attest: Karen L. Rees, City Clerk

Date: November 19, 2024