

RESOLUTION #2017-28 OF DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

DESIGNATING THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER AS "*INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY*" IN DURHAM, NH

WHEREAS, the Town of Durham recognizes that the Indigenous People have occupied land that would later become known as the Americas for 13,000 years; and

WHEREAS, the Native Americans, called Wabanaki (People of the Dawn) were not a single people, but were many groups with similar customs who spoke dialects of the Algonquian language; and

WHEREAS, English settlers arrived in the region in the 1620's, and initially, the settlers and Wabanaki lived in relative peace and shared and traded resources; and

WHEREAS, as the colonists' settlements expanded, disputes over land use and ownership multiplied. Social, economic, political, and religious differences led to confusing and hostile confrontations. Profound cultural and language barriers impeded understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Durham acknowledges that Durham is built upon the homelands and villages of the indigenous people of this region and that those indigenous people assisted the colonists with knowledge and understanding on how to survive in an unfamiliar new land; and

WHEREAS, human history suggests that individual or systemic acts of aggression and intolerance toward others engender only further hostility, discord, and destruction of lives; and

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

WHEREAS, the United States federal government, the State of New Hampshire, and the Town of Durham recognize Columbus Day on the second Monday of October, in accordance with the federal holiday established in 1937; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Durham desires to celebrate the culture and values of indigenous people, and to reflect upon the historical offenses against and ongoing struggles of indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, an opportunity exists for our residents and local schools to learn about and contemplate the intersection of these diverse cultures; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council encourages the State of New Hampshire to consider similar measures; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Durham is a welcoming community that embraces all people and their inherent inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, a premise fundamental to our nation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Town Council, the governing and legislative body of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire, does hereby adopt Resolution #2017-28 designating the second Monday in October as "*Indigenous Peoples' Day*" in Durham, NH and reaffirming the Town's commitment to promote understanding, friendship, and the well-being and growth of its indigenous community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Section VI (H) "Holidays" of the Town's Personnel Plan will be amended to reflect the second Monday in October as "*Indigenous Peoples' Day*" holiday.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of September, 2017 by a majority vote of the Durham Town Council with Seven (7) affirmative votes, Two (2) negative votes, and Zero (0) abstentions.

Katherine Marple, Chair
Durham Town Council

ATTEST:

Lorrie Pitt, Town Clerk-Tax Collector