

Motion


The City of Los Angeles sits on native land. The first peoples of the region are the Tongva, the Tataviam and the Chumash. In 2021, the City of Los Angeles adopted a formal apology in the form of a Resolution (CF: 21-0002-S178) to all Native Tribal Nations which have been injured by historic City actions, including the City's pursuit of water in the Owens Valley. On August 30th, 2017, the City removed Columbus Day and replaced it with Indigenous Peoples Day, celebrating the inaugural event on August 9th, 2018 with the removal of the Columbus Statue formerly located in front of City Hall in the civic center area, at Grand Park.

The City should further increase visibility with native and indigenous communities by starting every first meeting of any official body with a land acknowledgement that recognizes the first people of this region. Land Acknowledgments have historically been conducted by Native Tribal Nations, or hemispheric indigenous communities, such as those indigenous to Los Angeles—the Tongva, the Chumash, or the Tataviam, and other national and international tribal communities. Los Angeles is a world city, and boasts residents the world over, including tribal indigenous leaders. It is therefore appropriate for the first council and commission meetings of the month to begin with an acknowledgment of Indigenous and Native Tribal Nations, in order to demonstrate respect and support for Indigenous Tribal Nations everywhere.

Any City native land acknowledgment should be informed by local and international tribal nations and indigenous communities, starting first with the tribal nations of the region. The Department of Civil and Human Rights, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, should report on the cultural and historic regional components necessary for Council's consideration. Since 2021, Los Angeles County facilitated conversations with tribal nations from the region, focusing on the factual elements needed for a land acknowledgement policy; the County process included 7 tribal nations, out of 22 that were invited. The City Department of Civil and Human Rights should work with the County, and the Native American / Indian Commission, and local tribal nations to ensure an accurate policy.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Civil and Human Rights Department, in collaboration with the Los Angeles City / County Native American Indian Commission, and representatives from the Tongva, Tataviam and Chumash tribes, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, be DIRECTED to report within 30 days on the creation of a Los Angeles City land acknowledgement policy.

PRESENTED BY:



Mitch O'Farrell  
Councilmember, 13th District  
Member, Wyandotte Nation

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL



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