

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS,	the City of Bloomington is located in the great state of Indiana, whose name means “Land of the Indians”; and
WHEREAS,	the native inhabitants of Indiana were members of the Miami, Lenape (Delaware), Wea, Shawnee, Piankeshaw, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations, among a total of 16 tribes that lived here; and
WHEREAS,	such documents as the Doctrine of Discovery of 1493, which gave Spain exclusive rights to the lands explorers encountered in the New World, were subsequently reinforced by American judicial decisions and such beliefs as manifest destiny, which fueled white settlers’ westward expansion; and
WHEREAS,	this imperialist ethos allowed for the inhumane treatment of the native peoples, their eradication from their homelands, and the cession of these lands to the federal government; and
WHEREAS,	despite popular misrepresentations, many people of indigenous ancestry continue to live in Bloomington and throughout Indiana; and
WHEREAS,	to this day, the highest distinctions awarded by the Governor of Indiana bear names from an American Indian language that designate paramount chiefs: the Sachem and the Sagamore; and
WHEREAS,	support for the declaration of Indigenous Peoples’ Day has grown since the idea was presented at the United Nations’ first International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, held in Geneva, Switzerland in 1977; and
WHEREAS,	since then, at least 60 cities, four states, and many college and university campuses have officially declared the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day; and
WHEREAS,	many indigenous students bring their talents to Indiana University-Bloomington, where the Native American Student Association and the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center assist in their transition, provide opportunities for cultural observance and celebration, and set them up for success; and
WHEREAS,	IU’s American Indian Studies Research Institute and The Language Conservancy in Bloomington are dedicated to preserving rapidly disappearing indigenous languages and cultures; and
WHEREAS,	the cultures and contributions of the original peoples of the Americas should be recognized, honored, and celebrated;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Hamilton, Mayor of Bloomington, Indiana do hereby proclaim October 8, 2018, as

Indigenous Peoples’ Day

in Bloomington.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed, the Seal of the City of Bloomington this 5th day of October 2018.

John Hamilton
Mayor, City of Bloomington