



## *Official Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation*

**Whereas:** Instead of commemorating conquest today, here in the Town of Swampscott we recognize our history and since time immemorial, peoples indigenous to the lands we now call Swampscott built communities, fostered cultures and stewarded the land sustainably.

**Whereas:** For the first time in our Town's history, we recognize indigenous peoples in our Town and anywhere in the United States, as we pay respect to the cultures and populations that existed long before European contact with this land. So too, we celebrate the contributions of all indigenous peoples to the culture of diversity, innovation and resilience that has had an indelible impact on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Whereas:** The Town of Swampscott recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands (later known as the Americas) have lived on these lands since time immemorial and we honor the fact that the Swampscott has been built upon the traditional and ancestral homelands of Native Americans, referred to as Naumkeags, and called Swampscott the "land of the red rock".

**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.

**Whereas:** Town of Swampscott is committed to protecting and advocating for justice, human rights, and the dignity of all people who live, work and visit in our community, and to supporting the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "Declaration") endorsed by the United States on December 16, 2010.

**Whereas:** The Declaration of Human Right's recognizes the right of Indigenous Peoples "to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information," and places an obligation to "take effective measures, in

consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous Peoples and all other segments of society”.

**Now, Therefore,** the Town of Swampscott hereby establishes the second Monday in October as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” as an opportunity for the community to reflect on the ongoing struggles of Indigenous People of this land, to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region and the Commonwealth, and hereby proclaim October 11, 2021 as:

## **"Indigenous Peoples’ Day"**

in the Town of Swampscott, Massachusetts and encourage all faith based and non-profit organizations, residents, businesses, and public institutions to acknowledge, honor, value and celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ historic and current contributions locally and beyond, while also recognizing the ongoing and interconnected struggles of all Indigenous communities locally and beyond.

**In Witness Whereof,** we have here unto set our hands and caused to be affixed the GREAT Seal of the Town of Swampscott, Massachusetts, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

