



DATE: October 24, 2016

TO: Gene Winstead, Mayor
Jamie Verbrugge, City Manager

FROM: Lorinda Pearson, Human Services Division Manager and HRC Staff Liaison 

CC: Diann Kirby, Director, Community Services Department

RE: American Indian Heritage Month Proclamation

Attached is the American Indian Heritage Month Proclamation for the Monday, October 24, 2016 City Council meeting. Jim Jones, the curator of the "Why Treaties Matter" exhibit and interim Director for the MN American Indian Affairs Council will be present to accept the proclamation.

Background:

Efforts to designate a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made were started at the turn of the century. Since 1915, the day of recognition has changed and in 1990, a joint Resolution designating the month of November as "National American Indian Heritage Month" was approved by President Bush.

The Commission will honor American Indian Heritage Month by hosting the "Why Treaties Matter" exhibit November 2-9 & 14-30 in the Civic Lobby. The exhibit "highlights how Dakota and Ojibwe treaties with the U.S Government affected the lands and lifeways of the indigenous peoples of the place now called Minnesota and why these binding agreements between nations still matter today".

There will also be two Coffee with the Curator sessions: November 2 at 10 a.m. and November 14 at 2 p.m. and a community Program on November 15th starting at 6:00 p.m. with a reception with Curator Jim Jones. Keynote speaker Dr. Don Bartlette will share his story growing up as an American Indian, with emotional, speech, and physical disabilities in an adverse environment and how he survived with the help of a community member.

The Council is requested to declare November as American Indian Heritage Month in Bloomington.

Attachment