



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Flagstaff Issues Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – Oct. 14, 2019 – The City of Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans issued a proclamation Monday, October 14, 2019 at the Flagstaff City Hall recognizing the day as Indigenous Peoples' Day. In attendance for the reading of the proclamation were Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr.

Mayor Evans shared that Monday's proclamation is the second time the City of Flagstaff has recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day and the first time a full day of celebration was planned.



PHOTO: Steve Darden, Flagstaff City Council Members Regina Salas, Jim McCarthy, Vice Mayor Adam Shimoni, Council Member Jamie Whelan, Mayor Coral Evans, Council Members Austin Aslan and Charlie Odegaard stand before the audience as the Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation is read on October 14, 2019 at the Flagstaff City Hall.

“Without a doubt, a proclamation and a celebration does not fix historical trauma. And this celebration we are having here today is not meant to do that,” said Mayor Evans following the reading of the proclamation.

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The proclamation acknowledged that the City of Flagstaff is built on lands known, inhabited, loved, and respected by Indigenous people since time immemorial.

The proclamation also stated that: “The City of Flagstaff resolved in 2018 to support efforts to educate the public about historic and contemporary Indigenous human rights concerns, and to honor its Indigenous roots by becoming a better steward of the land it is built upon.”

President Nez also gave a welcome address to those in attendance, where he recognized that cities and states across the country have officially recognized Indigenous Peoples’ Day, such as Albuquerque, New Mexico and Salt Lake City, Utah.

“Every one of us has five fingers and that’s how we’re all related,” said President Nez.

Six of thirteen local tribes were in attendance at the reading of the proclamation, which included a program of cultural dances and songs at the Flagstaff City Hall. The event was partly the result of Indigenous Community Forums held by the City of Flagstaff in 2016 and 2017, said Mayor Evans.

“If we cannot come together in a simple celebration over food, over culture, over music, then we will always have problems trying to fix the major issues that we have,” said Mayor Evans. Mayor Evans continued by thanking the tribes present for sharing in the celebration.



PHOTO: Flagstaff City Mayor Coral Evans and 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr. following the proclamation of Indigenous Peoples’ Day on October 14, 2019 at the Flagstaff City Hall.

Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr. thanked Mayor Evans and the Flagstaff City Council members for acknowledging the work needed to bridge the inequalities that Native American people face in Northern Arizona.

“This event gave us a day to reflect together. It was also a time of establishing new relationships and renewing old ones with area native leaders,” said Delegate Walker.

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