

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO**

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**WHEREAS,** Indigenous people have resided in Detroit for centuries. The Anishinaabe, or the “Three Fires People,” composed of the Ojibwe, Ottawa, and Potawatomie tribes resided on this land before it become known as the City of Detroit; and

**WHEREAS,** Because of Detroit’s proximity to large bodies of water, indigenous people have always relied upon this land as a place for hunting, fishing, trading, transporting, and fellowshipping. This is their ancestral homeland, and their alliance was formed in spite of the unjust treaties and forced relocations conducted by French and British colonizers; and

**WHEREAS,** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are more than 30,000 people who identify as full or half Native American currently living in metro Detroit; and

**WHEREAS,** Since long before European colonization, Native communities have passed down rich cultures, knowledge, traditions, and ways of life. Native Americans have continued to make valuable contributions to all aspects of society, and they remain committed to the stewardship of the natural world; and

**WHEREAS,** Detroit is a diverse city, and must practice solidarity with all historically and currently oppressed communities; and

**WHEREAS,** The recognition of Native American Heritage Month is a commitment to truth, justice, and reconciliation, as well as a time to remember centuries of colonization, forced relocation, and marginalization. It is an opportunity to honor and to establish a deeper understanding of the rich and diverse contributions of Indigenous communities to the city of Detroit; and

**WHEREAS,** Native American Heritage Month is also a time to celebrate Native American communities, which have served as the foundation of this country for centuries; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes November as Native American Heritage Month; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk’s Office provide a copy of this resolution to the Michigan delegation to the United States Congress.