

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division

THRU: Council President Mary Sheffield

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: September 19, 2025

RE: Resolution to recognize the Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration

Please compose a resolution recognizing that the City of Waawiyatanong/Detroit will be hosting an Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration on Monday, October 13, 2025, at Hart Plaza from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

This event builds on the work of former District 6 Council Member Raquel Castañeda López, whose office championed the 2017 City Council resolution recognizing the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day. We hope this year's celebration is not just a one-time return to a tradition once held at Hart Plaza more than three decades ago, but the continuation of a cultural staple that endures for generations to come.

Please include language acknowledging that this land originally belonged to the Council of Three Fires (Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi).

We also want to thank our partners who helped to successfully bring this event together:

1. North American Indian Association of Detroit (NAIA)
2. Detroit Indigenous Peoples' Alliance (DIPA)
3. The Southeast Michigan Indians Inc (SEMI)
4. American Indian Health and Family Services (AIHFS)

We also offer many thanks to the internal departments who are also working to make this a success. The Mayor's Office, Civil Rights and Inclusion Office, General Services Department and Media Services.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council