

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on the Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day is a day to recognize and celebrate rich Indigenous heritage, culture, and history while honoring past, current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day is also a time to reflect on the strength, resilience, and determination of Indigenous peoples who have carried their cultures forward with vitality and pride despite enduring generational harms that continue to impact present-day Indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia honors and acknowledges the Indigenous people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial and who still inhabit the area today, the Steh-Chass Band of Indigenous people of the Squaxin Island Tribe; and

WHEREAS, today the Steh-Chass (Squaxin) people continue to steward these ancestral lands, from the Deschutes watershed and what is now Budd Inlet, and the Squaxin continue to call themselves "People of the Water" because of the bounty of the region's waterways and artesian waters, which have sustained the people for millennia; and

WHEREAS, both the Squaxin Island Tribe and City of Olympia honor the Medicine Creek Treaty and have established a strong government-to-government relationship between the two sovereigns; and

WHEREAS, On October 7, 2021, the City of Olympia re-signed and re-affirmed their Accord with the Squaxin Island Tribe in the spirit of understanding and mutual respect, and committed to the following long term-actions:

- Coordinate and cooperate to support economic and infrastructure opportunities, protect natural resources, and respond to climate change;*
- Create more opportunities for public art, education, and community service that will promote a healthy exchange of cultures;*
- Establish an intergovernmental work group between the two Councils to advance these commitments and develop consultation protocol, a strategic plan, and enduring channels of communication;*
- Conduct biannual meetings of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council and the Olympia City Council in the Spring and Fall to maintain a shared vision, address issues of mutual concern, develop strategies and agreements, and overcome obstacles;*
- Renew this Accord every five years to celebrate our achievements,*

evaluate our processes, and update our priorities and actions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia celebrates the thriving culture and immeasurable value that Squaxin Island, Nisqually, Puyallup, Chehalis, Suquamish, Duwamish, and other Indigenous nations bring to our community, and commits to walking together in healing, reconciliation, and shared prosperity; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim October 13, 2025 as

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

in the City of Olympia, Washington, and encourages all Olympians to continue reflecting on the experiences and contributions of Indigenous people and amplify their voices far beyond this day.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 7th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Dontae Payne
Mayor***