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City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 88893 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NOEL GALLO

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**ADOPT A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2021 AS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE THE CULTURE, TRADITIONS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Libby Schaaf is honoring Crystal Wahpepah an East Oakland and Ohlone land native and a nationally recognized Indigenous Chef and leader in the Food Sovereignty Movement. A member of the Kickapoo Nation in Oklahoma, Crystal learned to cook traditional foods from her grandmother and was the first Indigenous Chef on the nationally-known Food Network cooking show, Chopped. Crystal owns and operates Wahpepah's Kitchen which she opened in 2021 in the Fruitvale Village. Crystal believes indigenous cuisine provides more than just nourishment it provides healing from trauma. Her cooking and business practices acknowledge that we live on stolen land, connect to the reclamation of Native food ways, and educate communities on the many health benefits provided by Native food. As a Black Indigenous leader, Crystal believes in opening doors for more Indigenous entrepreneurs and has brought her ingredients and educational talks to diverse community settings, be they: the tech world, non-profit organizations and educational institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, District 1 is honoring Jeffrey Martinez, a student and activist who lives by the Lakota values of respect, wisdom, generosity, courage, fortitude, compassion and humility. Born and raised in Oakland, Mr. Martinez is a member of the Sicangu and Oglala Lakota from South Dakota. While studying astrophysics and math at the University of California at Berkeley, Mr. Martinez continues to create inspiring art encompassing drawings, paintings and three-dimensional models. His art has been featured at the Intertribal Friendship House's art collection created by the Native Youth Council. Additionally, Mr. Martinez holds a fifth-degree black belt in karate; and

**WHEREAS**, District 2 is honoring the Intertribal Friendship House which serves Native people as an Urban Reservation and Homeland. Friendship House is one of the few places that keeps urban Native people connected to their culture and traditions through pow wow dance, drumming, beading classes, and the many social gatherings, cultural events, and ceremonies that are held there. Intertribal Friendship House is more than an organization. It is the heart of a vibrant tribal community; and

**WHEREAS**, District 3 is honoring the American Indian Child Resource Center, an American Indian led service organization focusing on American Indian foster care, mental health, education & cultural protective factors. District 3 is truly grateful for the many years of service and dedication to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, District 4 is honoring Karen Harrison, who retiring as a Lead Registered Nurse at the Native American Health Center. Dedicated to love and activism, Karen lived on Alcatraz Island during the Occupation with her mother and siblings. She joined the Native American Health Center in 1977 through its medical assistant program. Longtime CEO, Martin Waukazoo, supported Karen through her entire career and schooling. She has mentored many medical assistants, nurses, and other medical staff, and is even known as the “Patient Whisperer” due to her ability to calm those in crisis. Karen has served as an inspiration for the Native community, family, and colleagues. She leads with grace and has guided those around her to care for the community as she does, with love and compassion. Karen has helped grow the Native American Health Center into what it is today – a community clinic for everyone; and

**WHEREAS**, District 5 is honoring Martin and Helen Waukazoo who are locally and nationally recognized Native American leaders. As the CEO of the Native American Health Center based in Oakland for close to 50 years, Martin Waukazoo, a Rosebud Lakota, has been instrumental in addressing persistent health disparities affecting Bay Area residents. Guided by his vision, the Native American Health Center has helped thousands of community members access quality, affordable, and comprehensive healthcare. In Oakland, the Center offers medical, dental, youth services, community, and cultural services, school-based clinic services and soon will operate a total of 120 units of affordable housing. The Center employs almost 300 staff across seventeen sites in three Alameda, San Francisco, and Contra Costa County.

Helen Waukazoo, Navajo, was the CEO and Founder of the Friendship House, the largest substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery program of its kind serving Native American women, men, youth, and families. In operation for over 60 years, the residential recovery program integrates Native American spiritual values and traditional healing practices of prayer, healing ceremonies, and talking circles, and has assisted over 500 individuals. The Waukazoos have contributed greatly to Oakland and the surrounding communities and are well respected by many for their strength and resilience to help those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, District 6 is honoring Eulalia Valerio who serves as the Member Services Director at the Native American Health Center. At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, Eulalia and her team led multiple vaccine clinics across Oakland, including in District 6. Her team was notably successful in holding these vaccine clinics as they struggled with the limited resources. Her innovative and tenacious leadership resulted in hundreds of vaccinations for Oakland’s most vulnerable communities. Eulalia’s commitment to the community has had a significant impact on the residents who received direct service as well as the entire City; and

**WHEREAS**, District 7 is honoring Deja Gould, who was born and raised in her ancestral village of Huchiun, in unceded Lisjan territory, what is now known as Oakland and surrounding Cities. Deja is proud to be a mom to two children and together they go out to the land to lead seed saving, transplanting and language revitalization; teaching and learning the Chochoeny language, the first language to be spoken on this land in the East Bay. Her work is grounded in culture, language, the recognition of Native American people and the protection of sacred sites. She speaks at schools for children and she also leads the Himmetka in District 7. Himmetka is a culturally based emergency response hub. Their Lisjan Himmetka includes a ceremonial space, food and medicine gardens, water catchment, filtration, and storage, first-aid supplies, tools, and a seed saving library. Deja is also a Confederated Villages of Lisjan tribal member and language keeper. She is an inspiration for our younger generations, Deja beautifully embodies her Native American heritage through her work in District 7 and throughout the City of Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, District 8 (At-Large) is honoring Corrina Gould (Lisjan Ohlone), the chair and spokesperson for the Confederated Villages of Lisjan — she was born and raised in Oakland, CA, the village of Huichin. A mother of three and grandmother of four, Corrina is the Co-Founder and Lead Organizer for Indian People Organizing for Change, a Native run organization that works on Indigenous people issues and sponsored annual Shellmound Peace Walks from 2005 to 2009. These walks raised awareness of the desecration of sacred sites in the greater Bay Area. As a tribal leader, she has continued to fight for the protection of the Shellmounds, uphold her nation's inherent right to sovereignty, and stand in solidarity with her Indigenous relatives to protect sacred waters, mountains, and lands all over the world. Her life's work has led to the creation of Sogorea Te' Land Trust, a women-led organization within the urban setting of her ancestral territory of the Bay Area. Sogorea Te' Land Trust works to return Indigenous land to Indigenous people. Based on an understanding that Oakland is home to many peoples that have been oppressed and marginalized, Sogorea Te works to create a thriving community that lives in relation to the land. Through the practices of rematriation, cultural revitalization, and land restoration, the Land Trust calls on native and non-native peoples to heal and transform legacies of colonization, genocide, and to do the work our ancestors and future generations are calling us to do; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That there are currently 574 federally recognized Indian Nations (also called tribes, pueblos, communities) in the United States. However, all American Indians and Alaska Natives are members of the original Indigenous peoples of North America; and Oakland and the entire Bay Area is Ohlone land; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** despite historical injustices that have been happening to indigenous people throughout the world, indigenous peoples are taking their destinies into their own hands and they are strengthening their own communities; and the State of California, the Bay Area and the City of Oakland are fortunate to have a diverse community of many cultures; and be it

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**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the first to live on this land, Native Americans and their traditions and values inspired and continue to inspire many aspects of our communities; we are fortunate to live among a global community of various indigenous people that contribute to the betterment of our communities through their work, investment and knowledge; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Native American community is fostering a new generation of leaders, working on fair and just treatment of indigenous communities by participating in efforts regarding the impacts of the global environmental crisis, public health care, and economic empowerment of all indigenous people not only in the United States but in communities throughout the world; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That American Indians, Alaska Natives and all indigenous people have made distinct and important contributions to California, the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including medicine, music, art, spoken word, language, food, environment sustainability, agriculture and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders and scholars; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people, foster awareness about the unique challenges Native and other Indigenous people have faced both historically and, in the present, and the ways in which Native communities are working to conquer these challenges; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland, City Council recognizes November 2019 as Native American Heritage Month to honor and celebrate the heritage, cultures and contributions of Native American communities and individual; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize the achievements and contributions of Oakland's Hispanic American champions who have worked tirelessly for their communities and inspired others to achieve success through their selfless leadership.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

**NOV 16 2021**

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT  
FORTUNATO BAS - 8

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST:



ASHA REED

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of  
the City of Oakland, California

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