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3 A resolution by Supervisor Weishan, Jr., recognizing the second Monday of October as  
4 Indigenous Peoples' Day, by recommending adoption of the following:  
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6 **A RESOLUTION**  
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8 WHEREAS, Wisconsin is home to members of 11 Federally recognized tribes;  
9 and  
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11 WHEREAS, indigenous people have called Milwaukee County (the County)  
12 home long before the land was known as Milwaukee County and long before the first  
13 European explorers reached the region; and  
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15 WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus did not arrive in North America, but instead  
16 landed in Hispaniola, located in the Caribbean; and  
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18 WHEREAS, according to Spanish records, there were more than three million  
19 Taino people living on Hispaniola at the time of Columbus' arrival; and  
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21 WHEREAS, by the year 1530, the Taino people were decimated due to  
22 enslavement, execution, and disease inflicted by colonialists, leaving around 200  
23 surviving Taino people; and  
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25 WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a  
26 delegation of native nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference  
27 on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and  
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29 WHEREAS, in an effort to depict a more accurate historical record of the  
30 discovery of the Americas, representatives from 120 indigenous nations at the First  
31 Continental Conference on the 500 years of Indian Resistance unanimously passed a  
32 resolution to transform Columbus Day into an opportunity to recognize the contributions  
33 of indigenous people; and  
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35 WHEREAS, Berkeley, California, has celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day since  
36 1994, and South Dakota has celebrated Native American Day since 1990; and  
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38 WHEREAS, in 2011 the Affiliated Tribes of Northern Indians, representing 59  
39 Tribes from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana, and  
40 some Alaskan Tribes, passed resolution #11-57, to change Columbus Day—the second  
41 Monday of October—to Indigenous Peoples' Day; and  
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43 WHEREAS, over 20 communities throughout the United States have renounced  
44 Columbus Day, and instead celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day, including Minneapolis,  
45 St. Paul, Seattle, Bozeman, Olympia, Santa Fe, Lincoln, Albuquerque, Anchorage, and  
46 Portland; and

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WHEREAS, Dane County passed a resolution recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day in 2015, and the City of Madison followed in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Act 31 mandates that students in public schools be educated about Wisconsin's Native American culture in grade school, middle school, and high school; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that native land in Southeastern Wisconsin was taken from the Ojibwa, Menominee, and Potawatomi for the building of our current community; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes and appreciates the contributions of Native American thought, culture, and technology; and

WHEREAS, the County has a responsibility to oppose the systemic racism towards indigenous people in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty, income inequality, and exacerbates disparate health, education, and social opportunities; and

WHEREAS, native people are not extinct, but their powerful cultures and unique languages must carry on, and are deserving of recognition and commemoration; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Personnel, at its meeting of December 2, 2016, recommended adoption of this resolution (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) designates that Milwaukee County shall recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board encourages the State of Wisconsin and the Federal government to recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

srb  
12/02/16  
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