



EL PASO COUNTY
STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, the County of El Paso recognizes the symbolic and substantive importance of renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS, while we recognize that Christopher Columbus played a role in American history, we have chosen to use this day, like many other communities, to honor indigenous communities, including the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo that is located within the County of El Paso, instead of the violence and oppression brought by European conquerors like Columbus; and

WHEREAS, this change allows us to bring awareness to the issue that surrounds much of the one-sided history that has been taught in our country, glorifying men who caused much pain and suffering and ignoring the genocide perpetrated upon the original inhabitants of this land; and

WHEREAS, indigenous peoples first proposed a name shift in 1977 at a United Nations Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations, it was not until 1989 that South Dakota became the first state to honor Native Americans' Day instead; and

WHEREAS, since then many communities -- beginning with Berkeley, California, in 1992 -- have celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day as opposed to Columbus Day; and

WHEREAS, the County of El Paso is as committed to doing what is right, honoring marginalized populations, and finding ways to think critically about American life and U.S. History; and

WHEREAS, to quote, the late Justice Ginsburg: "real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time," this is one step toward a more inclusive and aware community.

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED** by the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court, that we recognize the significance of the County of El Paso celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day for the first time ever on October 12th, 2020.*

***SIGNED**, this 5th day of October 2020*

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Vincent M. Perez, Pct. 3

Commissioner Carl Robinson, Pct. 4

Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge