



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

December 23, 2021

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if adopted, would change the date for the Indigenous Peoples' Day holiday, which will become a new paid holiday for King County employees in 2022, from October 12 to the second Monday in October.

In November 2020, Ordinance 19208 established October 12 of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day, a new paid holiday for King County employees eligible for comprehensive leave benefits. The Ordinance directed the Office of Equity and Social Justice (OESJ) to consult with county employees who identify as Native American and with tribes located within King County on whether October 12 is the preferred date to designate as the Indigenous Peoples' Day holiday.

OESJ staff engaged with the King County Native American Leadership Council, which indicated a preference for second Monday in October for the holiday observance. The King County Executive, Executive staff, and other King County staff consulted with the Muckleshoot, Tulalip, Duwamish, Puyallup, Suquamish, and Snoqualmie tribes, who indicated either a preference for or no objection to establishing the Indigenous Peoples' Day holiday on the second Monday in October. The attached proposed Ordinance changes the holiday date to reflect the preference of the Native American employees and tribes engaged in this effort.

This proposed legislation supports the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government by supporting the development of an engaged, diverse, and culturally responsive workforce. It also furthers the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan goal of having an equitable, engaged, and racially just workplace culture.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

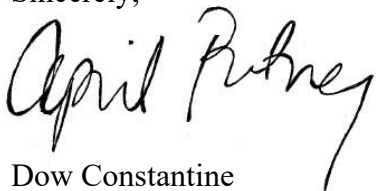
December 23, 2021

Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important proposed legislation, along with Ordinance 19208, helps King County government to officially acknowledge and honor the Native people on whose land we currently live; who continue today to fight for their rights to protect and promote their cultures, language, customs, and values – and their future – in light of ongoing colonization and multigenerational harms of genocide, forced reallocations, cultural erasure, and other attempts to eliminate Indigenous communities, their lands, and their cultures.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Shelley De Wys, Executive Analyst with the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget at 206-263-9718.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Shelley De Wys, Executive Analyst, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget