CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS RESOLUTION NO. 86-2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS, DECLARING THAT THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER WILL BE KNOWN AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY IN THE CITY OF WESTWOOD.

WHEREAS, Columbus Day is observed as a federal holiday established by order of President Roosevelt in 1937, and is officially recognized by some cities and states around the country on the second Monday of October, although is not an official City of Westwood holiday;

WHEREAS, Columbus Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the colonization of North America by Europeans and the development over the past 500-plus years of a unique, diverse and complex civilization unlike that of other parts of the world;

WHEREAS, The City of Westwood recognizes the occupation of the homelands of multiple native tribes for the building of our region and knows indigenous nations have lived upon this land since time immemorial and values the progress of our society accomplished through and by American Indian thought, culture and technology;

WHEREAS, The City of Westwood understands the importance of recognizing our Indigenous roots, history, and contributions;

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

WHEREAS, officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples on the second Monday of October would help provide a more balanced representation of our region's cultural history and constitute a small act of restitution for the hardships endured by Indigenous Peoples since the onset of European colonization of the Americas;

WHEREAS, the residents and elected leaders of the City of Westwood embrace an open and affirming community that celebrates diversity and rejects oppression of minority peoples, including Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, the City of Westwood is committed to promoting respect for, and understanding of, the region's indigenous community, their long history, and their continuing contribution to contemporary society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF WESTWOOD, KANSAS:

Section 1. The City of Westwood shall recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday in October, beginning on October 11, 2021.

Section 2. The City Council and Mayor encourage residents, businesses, organizations and public institutions in Westwood also to memorialize and celebrate Indigenous Peoples on the second Monday of October.

Section 3. The City Council and Mayor encourage residents, businesses, organizations and public institutions in Westwood to take steps to acquire a more complete and balanced history of this continent's and region's development since the arrival of European settlers, including an understanding of the contributions made by Indigenous Peoples, together with the hardships and sacrifices endured by Indigenous Peoples.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the City of Westwood, Kansas, this 12th day of November, 2020.

David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Ryan B. Denk, City Attorney