

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

August 9, 2021

ORDERED:

Indigenous Peoples Day

That the City Council of the City of Newburyport hereby approves the call to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. The Newburyport Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Alliance (DEI) Human Rights Commission, students and faculty at the River Valley Charter School and the City of Newburyport requests the observance of Columbus Day be changed to Indigenous Peoples Day as a recognition and celebration of the heritage of Native Americans and the history of their Nations. Recognizing this day in place of what's currently known as "Columbus Day" is a way to correct false histories, honor Indigenous peoples, and to begin to correct some of the countless wrongs committed again Indigenous peoples.

Many American cities and states have already legally abolished Columbus Day and recognized Indigenous Peoples Day in its place. The movement to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day or Native American Day has gained momentum and spread to states, cities, and towns across the United States. Massachusetts has long considered itself a beacon of progress for the United States as a whole. For Massachusetts to become a truly progressive, inclusive, diverse and equitable state, Columbus Day needs to be abolished and replaced by Indigenous People's Day.

Councillor Heather L. Shand

In City Council August 9, 2021:

Motion to refer to General Governemnt by Councillor Shand, seconded by Councillor Tontar. 8 yes, 1 present (SZ), 2 absent (JD, AK). Motion passes.