



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201-3342
509.625.6350

March 22, 2021

City Clerk File:
RES 2021-0019

COUNCIL ACTION MEMORANDUM

RE: RESOLUTION 2021-0019 ACKNOWLEDGING AND RECOGNIZING TRIBES AND TRIBAL PEOPLE IN THE SPOKANE AREA

During its 3:30 p.m. Administrative Session held virtually on March 22, 2021, the Spokane City Council took the following action:


Motion by Council Member Burke, seconded by Council Member Wilkerson, **to substitute** with the updated version of Resolution 2021-0019; **carried unanimously.**

At its 6:00 p.m. Legislative Session, the City Council considered Resolution 2021-0019. After receiving an overview of the resolution by Council Members Stratton and Wilkerson, public testimony, and Council commentary, the following action was taken:

Upon Unanimous Roll Call Vote (Council President Beggs and Council Members Burke, Cathcart, Kinnear, Mumm, Stratton, and Wilkerson voting "aye"), the City Council **adopted Resolution 2021-0019** acknowledging and recognizing the tribes and tribal people in the Spokane area and the surrounding region; establishing regular public land acknowledgements; inviting the tribal councils in the region to take part in regular consultations; and establishing a tribal liaison to continue to build strong relationships between the tribes and the City of Spokane.

DocuSigned by:

Terri L. Pfister, MMC
City Clerk

	Agenda Sheet for City Council Meeting of:		Date Rec'd	3/10/2021
	03/22/2021		Clerk's File #	RES 2021-0019
			Renews #	
Submitting Dept	CITY COUNCIL		Cross Ref #	
Contact Name/Phone	BREEAN BEGGS	6714	Project #	
Contact E-Mail	BBEGGS@SPOKANECITY.ORG		Bid #	
Agenda Item Type	Resolutions		Requisition #	
Agenda Item Name	0320 - LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RESOLUTION			
Agenda Wording				
Recognizing the tribes and tribal people in Spokane and the surrounding region; establishing regular public land acknowledgements; inviting the tribal councils in the region to take part in regular consultations; and establishing a tribal liaison.				
Summary (Background)				
This resolution, if adopted, would formally recognize that City Hall and City Council Chambers sit on the unceded, territory of the Spokane people. By formally recognizing the injustices done to the Native Americans who first lived on this land, we may start to move forward together towards restorative justice by working together to stop all acts of continued injustices towards Native Americans. The attached land acknowledgement was approved by the Spokane Tribal Council.				
Lease? NO	Grant related? NO	Public Works? NO		
Fiscal Impact		Budget Account		
Select	\$		#	
Select	\$		#	
Select	\$		#	
Select	\$		#	
Approvals		Council Notifications		
Dept Head	ALLERS, HANNAHLEE		Study Session\Other	UE 3/8/21
Division Director			Council Sponsor	Beggs, Stratton, Wilkerson
Finance	WALLACE, TONYA		Distribution List	
Legal	PICCOLO, MIKE			
For the Mayor	ORMSBY, MICHAEL			
Additional Approvals				
Purchasing				
Approved by Spokane City Council				
3/22/2021				
Signed by Jeri Pfister City Clerk				

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0019

A Resolution acknowledging and recognizing the tribes and tribal people in the Spokane area and the surrounding region; establishing regular public land acknowledgements; inviting the tribal councils in the region to take part in regular consultations; and establishing a tribal liaison to continue to build strong relationships between the tribes and the City of Spokane.

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane and Spokane City Hall, including City Council Chambers, the Council Briefing Center, and the City Council offices, are located on the aboriginal territory of the Spokane Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane River, the Spokane Falls, and Riverfront Park, which are directly outside of the City Council Chambers, have been a gathering place for the Spokane and their welcomed guests – the Coeur d’Alene, Kalispel, Colville, Nez Perce, and several other neighboring tribes – since time immemorial ; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Falls area has always been the home of the Spokane Tribe and a gathering place for many of the local area tribes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane is home to the eighth largest urban Native American population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane is named after “ilm spqni” – the Salish translation of “ilm” is Chief/leader, and “Spqni” is sun. Chief Spqni would call his people his children, thus, “Children of Chief Sun,” and

WHEREAS, White settlers accelerated the removal and placement of local tribes on reservations, cutting tribes off from their cultural and traditional practices throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, despite the removal, the City Council intends to hold its meetings in a manner that honors the deep history of the land and the Spokane people who are still here; and

WHEREAS, the City Council not only wants to honor the past, but also seeks to forge a strong cooperative future with the tribal councils and Native American people in our City and throughout the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Spokane City Council commits to honoring the tribes of this region, their heritage, Native American people, and the land on which City Hall sits with regular land acknowledgements.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that to that end, the City Council will invite each tribe in the region to participate in regular consultation sessions, so that the tribes and the City can learn from each other, update each other on developments and common

opportunities, discuss issues of mutual concern, and strengthen our partnerships across the region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council adopts attached Land Acknowledgement for official use by the City of Spokane.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City Council in consultation with the Mayor will establish the position of Tribal Liaison, to lead the government-to-government efforts and coordinate the consultation process between the tribal councils and the City of Spokane and improving the lives of Native American people living within the City, with the details to be determined in the 2022 budget process.

Passed by the City Council this 22 day of March, 2021.

DocuSigned by:
Jeri Pister
City Clerk
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Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:
Mike Piccolo
Assistant City Attorney
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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded land of the Spokane people. And that these lands were once the major trading center for the Spokanes as they shared this place and welcomed other area tribes through their relations, history, trade, and ceremony. We also want to acknowledge that the land holds the spirit of the place, through its knowledge, culture, and all the original peoples Since Time Immemorial.

As we take a moment to consider the impacts of colonization may we also acknowledge the strengths and resiliency of the Spokanes and their relatives. As we work together making decisions that benefit all, may we do so as one heart, one mind, and one spirit.

We are grateful to be on the shared lands of the Spokane people and ask for the support of their ancestors and all relations. We ask that you recognize these injustices that forever changed the lives of the Spokane people and all their relatives.

We agree to work together to stop all acts of continued injustices towards Native Americans and all our relatives. It is time for reconciliation. We must act upon the truths and take actions that will create restorative justice for all people.

Adopted by Spokane City Council on the 22 day of March, 2021
via Resolution 2021- 0019