

Culver City Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee
Indigenous Peoples Day Report
August 27, 2024

Members of the Indigenous Peoples Day Ad Hoc Subcommittee are Ifu Nweke and Rebecca Rona.

Because of time, space and financial limitations, it was suggested during the July 2024 committee meeting that this committee use social media to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day.

TikTok video

Members of the Indigenous Peoples Day Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommend that we create a three- to five-minute TikTok video to be posted by city staff at least one week ahead of October 14th, which is Indigenous Peoples Day. We will need to discuss the best ways to publicize this social media event.

If the committee votes in favor of Concept A or Concept B, below, members of the Indigenous Peoples Day Ad Hoc Subcommittee will work to refine and finalize the TikTok video by Monday, September 23rd, well ahead of Indigenous Peoples Day, which will occur Monday, October 14th.

Regardless of whether Plan A. or Plan B. is adopted, throughout the course of the video, we would hear Mayor McMorris. For the first few seconds, we would see her as she speaks. This would be followed by a succession of photos (a photo collage) taken by former member Anissa Di Vicente specifically to be used during the committee's first Indigenous Peoples Day Commemoration. During this collage, we would continue hearing her. We would see Mayor McMorris again near the end of the video, which would conclude with the mayor sharing the remainder of her remarks.

Plans A and B

Plan A. If the committee votes in favor of the draft land acknowledgement to be proposed at the August 27th meeting, and if the City Council adopts it: we will hear Mayor McMorris reciting the land acknowledgement, explaining some of its history, and explaining the reasons it is important to her that the land acknowledgement be recited at the beginning of each council meeting.

Plan B. If the draft land acknowledgement proposed at the August 27th meeting either is not approved by the committee or is approved by the committee but not adopted by the City: we will instead hear Mayor McMorris saying approximately this:

Draft of the Mayor's remarks

"The land on which Culver City stands is the ancestral land of Indigenous peoples who have lived here for millennia. The tribes who have historically inhabited, and continue to inhabit, this region include the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California, the Gabrielino Tongva/San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, the Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, and the Gabrielino Tongva Tribe.

This region holds profound historical and cultural significance for these tribes, who called it home long before the arrival of settlers.

Members of the area's Tongva tribes refer to this land as Tovangaar, which they explain is the name of the original homeland of the Gabrieleño-Tongva people. The Kizh Nation refers to this area as Saangna, meaning

'the place of the pitch tar,' and explain that this is the ancestral home of the Gabrieleño people, who were named after the San Gabriel Mission.

The Gabrieleño people—past, present, and future— as its original caretakers, have an enduring connection to this land. Many in our city are committed to supporting and uplifting the Gabrieleño people and to fostering a deeper understanding of the histories and identities of all Indigenous peoples in this region. As mayor, I encourage all residents and visitors to join us [join me?] in respecting and caring for this land, in supporting the rights of these Indigenous communities and in preserving of their cultural legacies.”