Sponsored By: Assemblymember Sykes
Adopted: 03/01/16

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 16-006

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY.

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes the historical importance of Indigenous Peoples and their lands that later became known as the Americas, including Alaska and the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska have occupied the lands since time immemorial, including the homelands and communities of the Indigenous Peoples of the Borough region such as the Ahtna and Denaina Athabascans; and

WHEREAS, cultures, knowledge, and values of the Indigenous Peoples have often not received recognition as those who came into indigenous areas from other places; and

WHEREAS, we value the many contributions made to our communities through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, history, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts, and the deep cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the character of Alaska and the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes the importance of the fast growing population of Alaskans with indigenous heritage moving into the Borough from all over Alaska resulting in populations comprising one of the largest "villages" in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, systematic racism of the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska or any Alaskan of any origin is opposed; and

WHEREAS, policies and practices are needed to reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, that ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed by the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas and was sponsored by the United Nations at the 1977 Geneva Convention; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 59 Tribes from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana, and some Alaskan Tribes approved Resolution No. 11-57 in support of changing Columbus Day on the 2 Monday of October to Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS, the Borough joins the State of Alaska and a growing number of municipalities that have recognized the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, creating an opportunity to promote appreciation, tolerance, understanding, friendship, and partnerships among Indigenous Peoples and all Alaskans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough proclaims the second Monday in October each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day and encourages all Alaskans to celebrate

the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region and to continue efforts to promote the well-being and recognition of Alaska's Indigenous Peoples living in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 1 day of March, 2015.

VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

YES: Sykes, Beck, Colligan, Mayfield, and Doty
NO: McKee, and Kowalke