

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

November 16, 2009

CALL TO PODIUM:

Mr. Keith Colston, Executive Director for the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Nivea Berrios, Multicultural Affairs Committee-Co-Chair

Linda Plummer, Multicultural Affairs Committee- Co-Chair

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Crystal Carr, Community Services Director

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

| | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Presentation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Proclamation/Certificate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Appointment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Hearing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Historic District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Consent Item |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Policy Discussion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Work Session Discussion Item |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: |

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

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| Introduced | |
| Advertised | |
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| Hearing Date | |
| Record Held Open | |
| Policy Discussion | |

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| TITLE: |
| Proclamation of the Mayor and City Council Designating November 2009, as "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month" in the City of Gaithersburg |

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| SUPPORTING BACKGROUND: |
| <p>According to the 2005 Census Bureau statistics, there are an estimated 4.5 million American Indians and Alaska Native people in the Nation. National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is celebrated to recognize the intertribal cultures and to educate the public about the heritage and contributions to our national identity, with unique spiritual, artistic, and literary contributions, and vibrant customs and celebrations that enliven and enrich our land.</p> <p>One of the very early proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans". On December 14, 1915, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, presented to the White House endorsements from 24 state governments for a day to honor American Indians. However, it was not until 1990, when President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution that November was designated, "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994.</p> <p>Earlier this evening, the City's Multicultural Affairs Committee sponsored an American Indian Pow-Wow at the Casey Community Center. Guests enjoyed an enlightening cultural discussion, ethnic food, and performance by Dr. Keith Colston, Executive Director for the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. The Commission initiates and supports activities that affect Native Americans in Maryland and further the understanding of Native American history and culture. By providing a forum for communication, the Commission encourages cooperation and the exchange of ideas among Native Americans in the state.</p> <p>At this time we would like to invite Mr. Colston to the podium to receive this year's proclamation in recognition of the Commission's work in our community.</p> |

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| DESIRED OUTCOME: |
| Issue Proclamation |