



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAMATION
Recognizing
October 14th as Indigenous Peoples' Day**

WHEREAS, each year Indigenous Peoples' Day honors and recognizes our nation's first inhabitants, celebrating their contributions and achievements throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, the NC General Assembly established the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, which continues to advocate for state, local, regional, and national resources to support initiatives for American Indians; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations during an international conference addressing discrimination against Indigenous populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 U.S. Census, North Carolina is home to over 130,000 American Indians hailing from eight distinct state-recognized tribes including the Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of Saponi, Sappony, and Waccamaw Siouan; and

Whereas today, Indigenous peoples are a beacon of resilience, strength, and perseverance as well as a source of incredible contributions. Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations continue to practice their cultures, remember their heritages, and pass down their histories from generation to generation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim October 14, 2024, as **Indigenous Peoples' Day** and urges the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to celebrate and honor Indigenous American peoples and commemorate their histories and cultures.

ADOPTED this the 7th day of October 2024.

Shinica Thomas, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners