

# ADVISORY COMMUNICATION



**To:** Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Human Rights and Relations Commission  
**Date:** October 7, 2014  
**Subject:** Declaration of 'Indigenous Peoples' Day'  
**Attachments:** Draft Resolution

Agenda Item #: IX. C. 2.

**Action Requested:**

Direct staff to work with the HRRC to prepare resolution for consideration on a future Council agenda.

**Situation:**

The second Monday in October is recognized as Columbus Day. The Human Rights and Relations Commission (HRRC) feels this holiday celebrates Columbus, an explorer who perpetuated cruelty and violence against the Indigenous People. The HRRC would like to alternately recognize Columbus day as 'Indigenous Peoples' Day'.

**Background:**

Christopher Columbus did not 'discover' or even arrive in North America or in Minnesota, nor contribute to the American or Minnesotan culture. The City recognizes that Edina is built on the homeland of the Indigenous Peoples of the region and the valuable contributions Indigenous Peoples have made to Edina's development in technology, thought, and culture.

**Assessment:**

The City is committed to eliminating discrimination and to promoting and recognizing the full human rights of all people. Several other entities no longer celebrate Columbus Day or have re-designated Columbus Day.

**Recommendation:**

The HRRC recommends the Edina City Council to approve the 'Indigenous Peoples' Day' resolution by recognizing the city calendar and other City documents as appropriate the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Prepared by MJ Lamon, HRRC Staff Liaison, on behalf of the commission.