

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula acknowledges that we are in the homelands of the Séliš (Salish) and Qlispé (Kalispel) people. Today, we offer our respect for their history and culture, for their ancient and continuing presence in this landscape, and for the path they have shown us in caring for this place for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the ongoing impacts of systemic racism and intergenerational trauma that have resulted from historical injustice directed toward Indigenous populations, including forceful removal from homelands and appropriation of land within boundaries of sovereign nations through purchase by non-native people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula strives to strengthen relationships with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, enhancing trust and understanding and developing policies and practices that will aid in closing equity gaps, and honor Indigenous history, ongoing presence and contemporary contributions in our communities; and

WHEREAS, American Indian Heritage Month was first proposed in 1990 and later changed to "Native American Heritage Month" in 1991 by George H.W. Bush with its roots starting from efforts by Red Fox James (Blackfoot) in 1914; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation serves as a reminder of the City of Missoula's commitment to honor our relationship with sovereign nations and Indigenous Peoples and to uphold trust treaty responsibilities by ensuring ongoing collaboration and shared-decision-making with CSKT Leaders as we navigate the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andrea Davis, Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, hereby recognize the month of November as:

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

to value the history and rich cultures of Indigenous Peoples as we recognize their pride, resilience, determination and patriotism for this country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, to be affixed at Missoula, Montana this 10th day of November, in the year two thousand twenty-five.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Davis".

Andrea Davis, Mayor