Resolution supporting the creation of an American Indian Truth and Healing Reparations Advisory Committee and the development of a comprehensive plan with recommendations to address the inequities that exist in the San Francisco’s American Indian community as a consequence of historical racist and unjust federal, state, and local policies that contributed to American Indian genocide, land theft, forced removal from their lands, and ongoing systemic erasure.

WHEREAS, The geographical areas now known as the United States of America, California, and San Francisco were founded on stolen lands, slavery, and attempted genocide of American Indian nations, treating American Indians as an obstacle in the name of progress and “manifest destiny”; and

WHEREAS, There were over 16,000 documented murders of American Indians implemented under the purview of state and federal law in the period known as the California Genocide (1846-1873); and

WHEREAS, The Gold Rush era, which started in 1848, was founded on the enslavement, prostitution, murder, and coercion of American Indian people. The twenty years that followed led to a 90% reduction in the California Indian population; and

WHEREAS, The first governor of California, Peter Hardeman Burnett, declared a “war of extermination” against American Indians in his inaugural address and by 1900 only 21,000 California American Indians, less than 7% of the estimated pre-colonial population of over 300,000, remained; and
WHEREAS, Over 10 million acres of California land was promised as reservations in treaties signed by federal agents during the Gold Rush. None of these reservations were established; the state today has only 990,000 acres of Tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, Dishonoring the treaties signed by federal agents during the Gold Rush, the federal government granted 60,000 acres of prime California land as bounties to militiamen who served in the state's campaigns of genocide. Warrants for 8,600 acres, or 14% of this land, were issued at the San Francisco General Land Office at 625 Merchant Street from 1861-65, at 729 Montgomery Street in 1867, at 506 Jackson Street from 1868-1877, and at 610 Commercial Street from 1878-1900; and

WHEREAS, It was not until Congress enacted the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924 that American Indians born in the United States were recognized as citizens; yet were still denied the right to vote in all fifty states until 1957; and

WHEREAS, The genocidal tactics of forced sterilization across the United States during the 1960s and 1970s affected as many as 70,000 American Indian women; and

WHEREAS, American Indians did not have the right to legally exercise their religious freedom as granted to US citizens under the First Amendment until the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, which was enacted to allow American Indians the right to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religions; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco sits geographically within the homelands of the Ramaytush Ohlone, an area first known as Yelamu; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Mission Dolores was built on Chutchui, a thriving village site of the Ramaytush Ohlone which was wiped out 12 years after the Mission was established. Dolores is one of the 21 Franciscan missions built on the original inhabited homelands of the Ohlone peoples; and
WHEREAS, The American Indian population is not growing with San Francisco and the single-race American Indian population is declining rapidly; the latest five years of available data from 2014-2019 estimate the population of single-race American Indians declined by 572 individuals or 16.7%; and

WHEREAS, The 2018 Urban Indian Health Institute report concludes that San Francisco has the tenth highest number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls cases and the second highest number of unsolved cases missing or murdered Indigenous women cases in the United States; and

WHEREAS, American Indians in San Francisco experience the highest rates of unemployment at 10.7% according to the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates compared to 4.9% unemployment rates for the White population citywide; and

WHEREAS, American Indian students, based on the 2018-19 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), were 3.3 times more likely to experience chronic absenteeism than White students, have 4 times the rate of suspensions compared to White students, 3.8 times the rate did not meet English Language Arts (ELA) standards compared to White students, and 3.7 the rate of not meeting math standards compared to White students; and

WHEREAS, Based on the January 2020-2021 Four-Year-Cohort-Reports by California Department of Education (CDE), all students across SFUSD increased in graduation rates, except for American Indian student graduation rates which declined to a startling 63.6% in 2019-2020, in comparison to the 90% graduation rate for White students and 95.8% for Asian students; and
WHEREAS, The San Francisco American Indian community has been excluded from important city documents presented to other communities of color that shape policy making decisions, including a historical context statement and community needs assessments; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco previously acknowledged and investigated concerns facing Native American people in our city and recognized the harms of systemic erasure in the 2007 Human Rights Commission Report titled *Discrimination by Ommission: Issues of Concern for Native Americans in San Francisco*, but no initiative has followed on the proposed recommendations in the last 13 years; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Mayor Gavin Newsom appointed his Director of Governmental Affairs to lead a "unique policy discussion just on Native American issues in the City and County of San Francisco" open to the public, in recognition that the City does not know all it should about its American Indian community and the issues and disparities that this community faces, but this public discussion never took place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to create an American Indian Truth and Healing Reparations Advisory Committee housed under the San Francisco Human Rights Commission to create a comprehensively plan that will address the inequities that exist in the San Francisco American Indian community as a result of heinous injustices of federal, state, and local policies that resulted in American Indian genocide, forced removal from their lands, land theft, and systemic erasure; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, This Truth and Healing Reparations Advisory Committee will focus on bringing to light the issues faced by the American Indian community, identifying the needs and reparations that must be addressed to achieve overall equity and parity through the development of comprehensive 10-year plan outlining targeted recommendations to alleviate ongoing intergenerational trauma and poverty that continues to create devastatingly disproportionate outcomes for the local American Indian community in San Francisco.
Resolution supporting the creation of an American Indian Truth and Healing Reparations Advisory Committee and the development of a comprehensive plan with recommendations to address the inequities that exist in the San Francisco’s American Indian community as a consequence of historical racist and unjust federal, state, and local policies that contributed to American Indian genocide, land theft, forced removal from their lands, and ongoing systemic erasure.

May 03, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/3/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date

5/13/2022

5/13/2022