

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE,
HENRY SANTANA, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD MEJIA
FLYNN, MURPHY, PEPEN AND DURKAN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 28, 2024 AS
“NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING” IN THE CITY OF
BOSTON

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of years before European settlers colonized the land that is now known as the United States, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the City of Boston, Native American communities flourished here; *and*

WHEREAS, The colonization of North America led to the systematic destruction of the Native people, theft of Native lands and erasure of Native cultures. Centuries of violence and oppression caused lasting harm that continues today. Native American communities continue to see disproportionately worse health, education, and economic outcomes; *and*

WHEREAS, Today, Native Americans make up less than 1 percent of Boston’s population. Tribes in the New England region include the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe, Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut, Narragansett Indian Tribe, Nipmuc Indian Association of Connecticut, Nipmuc Nation Tribal Council, Nipmuck Council of Chaubunagungamaug, Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe; *and*

WHEREAS, Since 1970, on the fourth Thursday in November, Native Americans have gathered to mourn. Wamsutta Frank James of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) founded the “National Day of Mourning” to challenge the narrative of the 1621 harvest known as Thanksgiving – a story of “Indians” welcoming pilgrims and breaking bread together – that sanitizes the English colonists invasion of Wampanoag homelands and the violence and oppression resulting from colonization; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council commends the work of the United American Indians of New England (UAIN), the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) and other Indigenous groups that support Native American communities in Boston, celebrate native culture and resiliency and continue to organize the National Day of Mourning; *and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council recognizes the National Day of Mourning and joins our Indigenous residents who mourn the loss of Indigenous life and culture and fight for a better future for our Native American residents.

Filed on: November 20, 2024