



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Indigenous American Peoples, Hawaiian Natives and Alaskan Natives were the first to live on this land with their traditions and values inspiring ideas of self-governance and determination that are the framework of our country; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Senate Joint Resolution 172 in 1991 which authorizes and requests the President to proclaim November as Native American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, as stated by former President Barack Obama, “We must acknowledge the unfortunate chapters of violence, discrimination, and deprivation against American Indians, as well as the effects of injustices that continue to be felt”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Rosa recognizes the City is built upon Pomo, Miwok and Wappo homelands, and that Indigenous Nations have lived upon this land since time immemorial, that the land itself carries historical trauma, and that racist policies and dominant cultural norms have aimed to strip tribes not only of land, but of culture, language, and family systems; and

WHEREAS, many local tribes survived and banded together with other tribes from the region, such as the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, and the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians; and

WHEREAS, the non-profit organization Ya-Ka-Ama, which means “Our Land” in the Pomo language, was founded in 1971 and is situated on 125 acres of prime agricultural land in western Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Ya-Ka-Ama is to support traditional Native culture and values; to give Native people the tools to become contributing members of their communities; and to improve educational opportunities and resources for American Indians, Hawaiian Natives, and Alaskan Natives; and

WHEREAS, Ya-Ka-Ama is open to all tribe members in Sonoma County and the five surrounding counties in the region, offering a safe space for educational classes, cultural ceremonies and events, and celebrations of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Chris Rogers, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim November as

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mayor Chris Rogers
November 12, 2021