

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The City of Keene desires to recognize the Indigenous People of the Ashuelot region – dwelling here prior to and during the colonization begun by Europeans; and

WHEREAS: One of the oldest known archaeological sites in New Hampshire is located in Keene – demonstrating this area has been inhabited for millennia, long before Europeans began to settle along the Ashuelot River and its tributaries in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century; and

WHEREAS: The City of Keene recognizes that this area comprises in part the homelands of Indigenous Peoples including Abenaki, their allies, and ancestors; and

WHEREAS: The City of Keene recognizes the importance of accurate, historical memory and its dissemination in relation to its role in building conscious and considerate communities; and

WHEREAS: Indigenous Peoples' Day will provide an opportunity for our community to recognize, learn about, honor, and stand in solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of our region, and their ancestors, in concert with similar celebrations elsewhere; and

WHEREAS: The City of Keene encourages community members, students, businesses and our broader neighbors to recognize and celebrate Indigenous People's Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George S. Hansel, Mayor of the City of Keene, do hereby proclaim the second Monday in October of 2020, shall be celebrated as *Indigenous Peoples' Day* in Keene, New Hampshire.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the City of Keene this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

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George S. Hansel, Mayor