



# City of Framingham

## Proclamation

### October 7, 2025

### INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

**WHEREAS**, the City of Framingham recognizes that it stands upon the ancestral and unceded lands of the Nipmuc Nation (Framingham known as *Washakamaug*, "Eel-fishing place") who stewarded these lands for countless generations before the founding of our city and continue to live, thrive, and contribute to our community today; and

**WHEREAS**, the Downtown Common itself carries this history, serving as the site of an Indigenous burial ground remembered in the 1946 marker, which notes that "this the 'old field' of 1800 was an Indian burial ground. The bronzes represent local Indian life, the center the carrying of corn to the hungry Bay colonists in 1630 over the nearby trail later called the 'Old Connecticut Path'; and

**WHEREAS**, this memorial reminds us that the Nipmuc people not only lived and were laid to rest here, but also extended generosity to early colonists, a legacy of resilience, sustenance, and leadership that continues to this day; and

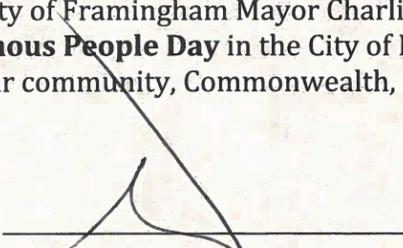
**WHEREAS**, Indigenous Peoples across the Americas have made, and continue to make, invaluable contributions to the arts, sciences, agriculture, public service, education, and culture, despite enduring centuries of injustice, dispossession, and erasure; and

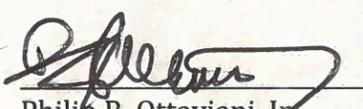
**WHEREAS**, the City of Framingham is committed to honoring and uplifting the voices, history, and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples, especially the Nipmuc Nation, whose resilience and leadership sustain cultural traditions and strengthen the fabric of our community; and

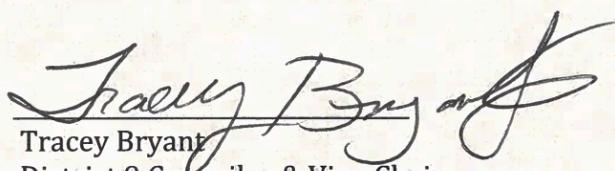
**WHEREAS**, Indigenous Peoples Day provides an opportunity for all residents of Framingham to learn from Indigenous history, celebrate Indigenous cultures, and reaffirm our shared responsibility to build a just and inclusive future together;

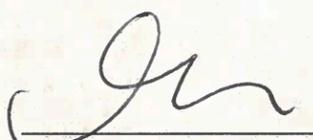
**FURTHER**, let this day serve as an ongoing call to action to engage in education, cultural respect, and partnerships with Indigenous communities, today and for generations to come.

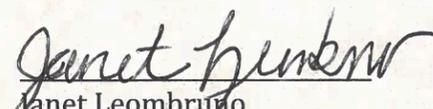
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, We, City of Framingham Mayor Charlie Sisitsky and the City Council, hereby proclaim **Monday, October 13, 2025** as **Indigenous People Day** in the City of Framingham, in recognition of the Nipmuc Nation and all Indigenous Peoples who enrich our community, Commonwealth, and nation.

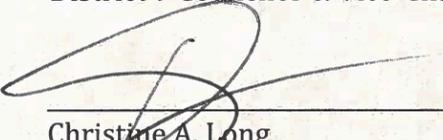
  
Charlie Sisitsky, Mayor

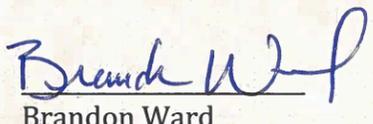
  
Philip R. Ottaviani, Jr.  
District 6 Councilor & Chair

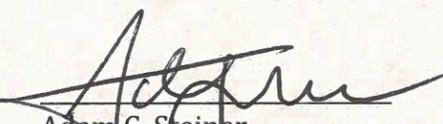
  
Tracey Bryant  
District 9 Councilor & Vice-Chair

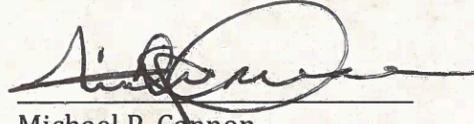
  
George P. King, Jr.  
Councilor-at-Large

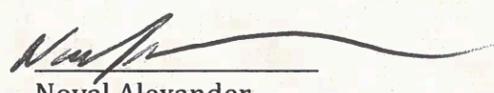
  
Janet Leombruno  
Councilor-at-Large

  
Christine A. Long  
District 1 Councilor

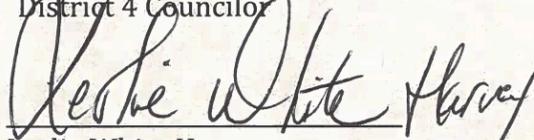
  
Brandon Ward  
District 2 Councilor

  
Adam C. Steiner  
District 3 Councilor

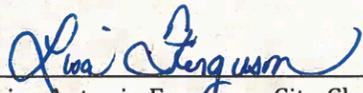
  
Michael P. Cannon  
District 4 Councilor

  
Noval Alexander  
District 5 Councilor

  
Leora Mallach  
District 7 Councilor

  
Leslie White Harvey  
District 8 Councilor

Attested to by:

  
Lisa Antonio Ferguson, City Clerk  
Emily L. Butler, Assistant City Clerk

