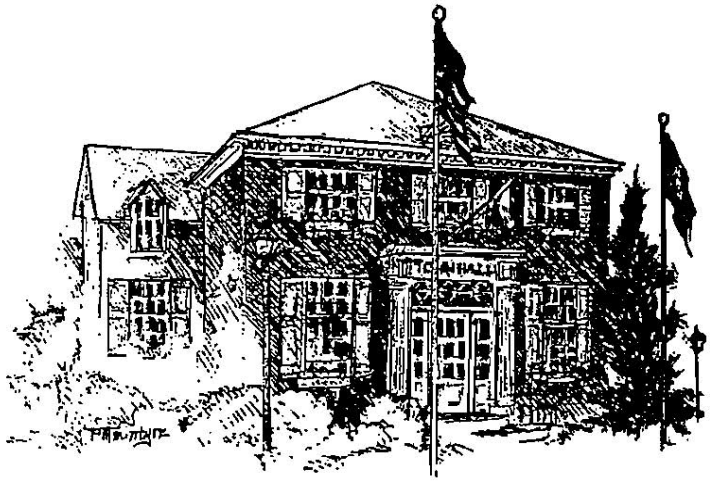

TOWN OF HERNDON, VIRGINIA
PROCLAMATION
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY AND COLUMBUS DAY
OCTOBER 12, 2026

The second Monday in October is traditionally recognized as *Columbus Day*, commemorating Christopher Columbus's 1492 voyage. This date is also recognized as *Indigenous Peoples' Day*, honoring the Native peoples whose histories, cultures, and connections to this land trace back many generations. Together, these observances offer an opportunity for dialogue about displacement, cultural preservation, and social justice.

Here in Herndon, we acknowledge that the land we live on today was originally stewarded by Indigenous peoples. The eleven state-recognized tribal nations of Virginia have lived on, cared for, and cultivated these lands and developed distinct societies, traditions, and cultural identities for millennia prior to European contact. Their descendants continue to contribute to the cultural and social fabric of Virginia. Concurrently, we acknowledge the influence of Italian Americans whose work has added vibrancy across the social landscape, including the arts, sciences, public service, and civic life. Our town values its cultural diversity and strives to cultivate a spirit of inclusion, equity, and historical reflection that honors all voices and truths.

Recognizing both *Columbus Day* and *Indigenous Peoples' Day* provides an opportunity to reflect on our complex national history, honor the resilience and contributions of Indigenous peoples, celebrate the rich heritage of Italian Americans, and engage in civil dialogue.

Therefore, the Mayor of the Town of Herndon, together with the Herndon Town Council, hereby proclaims October 12, 2026, as **Indigenous Peoples' Day and Columbus Day** in the Town of Herndon, and encourages all residents to observe the day with respect, learning, and thoughtful dialogue. Let us take this time to share stories of courage, heritage, and perseverance from all communities, and to renew our shared commitment to understanding, unity, and justice.