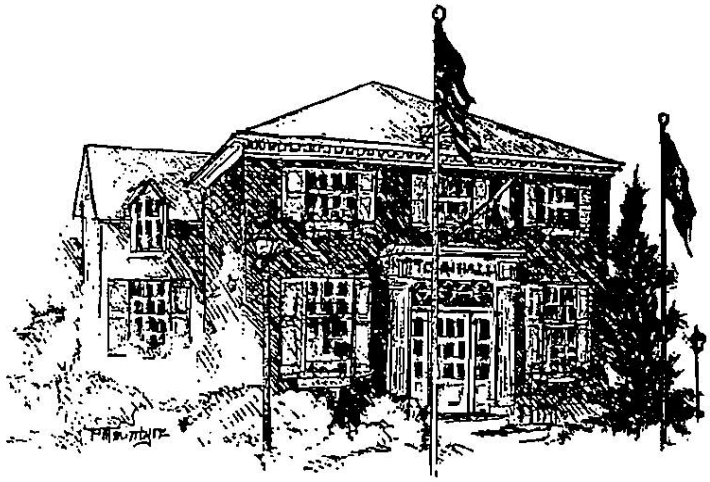

TOWN OF HERNDON, VIRGINIA
PROCLAMATION
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AND COLUMBUS DAY
October 13, 2025

The second Monday in October has long been recognized as Columbus Day, commemorating the voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492 and the lasting contributions of Italian Americans to the fabric of the United States. In recent decades, many communities have also sought to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the same date to honor the rich cultures, histories, and enduring contributions of Native peoples who have lived on this land since time immemorial. Indigenous communities across the Americas have experienced centuries of colonization, displacement, and hardship, and continue to lead efforts for cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and social justice.

Here in Herndon, we acknowledge that the land we live on today was originally stewarded by Indigenous peoples, including the Patawomeck, Piscataway, and Manahoac tribes, whose descendants continue to contribute to the cultural and social fabric of Virginia. Our town values its cultural diversity and strives to cultivate a spirit of inclusion, equity, and historical reflection that honors all voices and truths. We also acknowledge that Italian Americans have significantly contributed to the development of the United States, enriching our communities through the arts, sciences, public service, and civic life.

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

Therefore, the Mayor of the Town of Herndon, together with the Herndon Town Council, hereby proclaims October 13, 2025 as **Indigenous Peoples' and Columbus Day** in the Town of Herndon, and encourage all residents to observe the day with respect, learning, and thoughtful dialogue. Let us take this time to uplift stories of courage, heritage, and perseverance from all communities, and to renew our shared commitment to understanding, unity, and justice.