

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 12th day of November 2024, at 6:00 pm local time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, from November 1- November 30, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans are descendants of the original, Indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau estimates that—(1) in 2020, there were 9,666,058 individuals of American Indian and Alaska Native descent in the United States; and (2) in 2019, there were 607,010 individuals of Native Hawaiian descent in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans speak and preserve Indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations (i.e. Okemos in Meridian Township) throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Congress has consistently reaffirmed support for Tribal self-governance and self-determination policies for Native American communities and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans by—(1) enhancing health care and law enforcement resources; and (2) improving the housing and socioeconomic status of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy and the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—(1) freedom of speech; (2) the separation of governmental powers; and (3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government; and

WHEREAS, with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33;123 Stat. 1922), Congress—(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and (2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States; and

