

**A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
IN THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE AND PROVIDING A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON  
PAST EVENTS**

WHEREAS, Kiihkayonki (Kekionga), the center of the Myaamia (Miami) tribal nation, was located at the Confluence of the Three Rivers and was established on this site as a cultural, economic and transportation route of great political and military importance many generations prior to renaming it Fort Wayne; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Wayne occupies the ancestral and traditional territory of the Miami, Potawatomi, Shawnee, Delaware and other tribal nations, ceded through multiple treaties with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the duly elected Fort Wayne City Council adopted resolution R-5-19, proclaiming July 16<sup>th</sup> "General 'Mad' Anthony Wayne Day;" and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, representatives from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma contacted members of the Fort Wayne City Council about factual inaccuracies in the resolution as passed, as well as in the presentation provided at the Fort Wayne City Council meeting on February 26, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma provided an informed position statement requesting review and input from professional historians and elected tribal leaders; and

WHEREAS, in the informed position statement, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma stated the Miami, Shawnee, Delaware and others were led by their own captains at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794, not by British officers; and

WHEREAS, as noted in the informed position statement, at the time of the fighting on August 20, 1794, the lands in question were unceded Myaamia and other tribal lands, as the legal cession of the lands would not occur until later; and

WHEREAS, as noted in the informed position statement, the construction of Fort Recovery occurred in December 1793, before the August 1794 battle, being one of six forts built under Wayne's leadership; and

WHEREAS, neither Fort Recovery nor Fort Wayne were officially recognized until the signing of the Treaty of Greenville on August 3, 1795; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of Greenville embodies the qualities of Chief Little Turtle and General Anthony Wayne as diplomats and peacemakers, and testifies to the nuanced and complex natures of these historical figures; and,

1 WHEREAS, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Business Committee unanimously adopted Resolution 19-09 on  
2 May 20, 2019, further calling for the passage of a resolution by the Fort Wayne City Council to accurately  
3 portray the histories of the Myaamia people and General Wayne; and

4 WHEREAS, in May 2019, members of the Fort Wayne City Council met with Miami Tribe of Oklahoma  
5 representatives to discuss the incomplete history as presented previously in the year and worked  
6 together to craft a plan to effectively correct the formal record; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2019 there are over 1,000 persons identified as Native American living in Fort Wayne,  
8 including over 200 Myaamia citizens living in a part of their ancestral homeland since time immemorial;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, all members of the Fort Wayne community should live as neighbors, understanding each  
11 other's histories and contemporary realities, with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and other groups with a  
12 historical focus being willing and able to provide information and context, especially those from peer –  
13 reviewed sources; and

14 WHEREAS, history of people and places can be seen through many different lenses, but the overarching  
15 hope is to present a fair and accurate accounting of all perspectives, to then be able to move forward as  
16 a collaborative community, where all histories and beliefs can be expressed and heard; and

17 WHEREAS, November is National Native American Heritage Month, where the United States pays tribute  
18 to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native peoples.

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE,**  
20 **INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:**

21 Section 1. The Fort Wayne City Council acknowledges and honors National Native  
22 American Heritage Month, and the significant contributions Native Americans have made to the  
23 Fort Wayne community including those members who are currently living here and those that  
24 are not.

25 Section 2. The Fort Wayne City Council acknowledges that R-19-02-12 did not provide a  
26 complete telling of certain historical aspects of the establishment of Fort Wayne.

27 COMMON COUNCIL OF THE  
28 CITY OF FORT WAYNE,  
29 INDIANA

30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Geoff Paddock  
32 Common Council Member

33 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

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35 Joseph G. Bonahoom, City Council Attorney