

**RESOLUTION NO. R2021.08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMPE, ARIZONA, RECOGNIZING THE LANDS THAT COMPRISE PRESENT-DAY TEMPE AS BEING CULTURALLY AFFILIATED WITH THE O'ODHAM, PIIPAASH, AND THEIR ANCESTORS, AND ESTABLISHING A PROTOCOL FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SAME.**

WHEREAS, the Ancestral O'Odham and their direct descendants, the O'Odham (Pima) have lived on the land that comprises present-day Tempe since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Piipaash (Maricopa) have long been confederated with and lived amongst the O'Odham; and

WHEREAS, United States Indian Claims Commission Docket 228, dated December 17th, 1970, declared the land area exclusively used and occupied by the O'Odham and Piipaash at the time of American accession to encompass 3,751,000 acres spanning almost the entirety of Maricopa County and much of Pinal County; and

WHEREAS, anthropological studies recognize the ancestral lands of the O'Odham, Piipaash, and their ancestors as a vast area ranging far beyond both the municipal limits of present-day Tempe and the exclusively used and occupied land area identified in the aforementioned United States Indian Claims Commission case; and

WHEREAS, archaeological investigations in Tempe and neighboring communities have documented features and artifacts indisputably associated with the Archaic through Classic periods of the Hohokam cultural sequence; and

WHEREAS, numerous Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act consultations have determined Native American human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred objects, and other objects of cultural patrimony taken from Tempe and its neighboring communities to be culturally affiliated with the ancestors of the O'Odham and Piipaash; and

WHEREAS, historical records dating to the Spanish, Mexican, and American periods of governance document O'Odham and Piipaash habitation in present-day Tempe and its neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, Charles Hayden and other Euro-American settlers of early Tempe succeeded, in large part, by adopting the knowledge and practices gained from their study of the advanced prehistoric irrigation system built and maintained by the Ancestral O'Odham and learned from their O'Odham and Piipaash neighbors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMPE, ARIZONA, HEREBY:

Section 1. That the following statement acknowledging the land that comprises present-day Tempe as being culturally affiliated with the O’Odham, Piipaash, and their ancestors be reverently memorialized and made available for use in City of Tempe educational endeavors, programs, ceremonies, holiday observances, land use decisions, and other applicable purposes:

We wish to acknowledge that Tempe is the homeland of the Native people who have inhabited this landscape since time immemorial. Anthropological studies document large and advanced Ancestral O’Odham settlements located throughout the entirety of present-day Tempe and recognize the ancestral lands of the O’Odham (known as the Pima), Piipaash (known as the Maricopa), and their ancestors as extending far beyond our community. This land continues to be spiritually connected to the O’Odham of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Gila River Indian Community. The SRP-MIC and GRIC, located northeast and south of Tempe, respectively, are confederations of two unique groups with their own languages, customs, cultures, religions, and histories; the O’Odham and the Piipaash. Both the O’Odham and the Piipaash are oral history cultures.

The landscape is sacred to the O’Odham and Piipaash and reflects cultural values that are central to their way of life and their self-definition. Their oral history and song culture are indelibly tied to tangible places that are associated with specific historic, cultural, and religious values. Settlement patterns, advanced irrigation practices, and other lifeways driven by a deep understanding of and respect for the landscape are directly attributable to the ancestors of the O’Odham and Piipaash and served as the template for the establishment of Tempe. We accept the responsibility of stewarding those places and solemnly pledge to consider this commitment in every action.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMPE, ARIZONA, this 14th day of January, 2021.




Corey D. Woods, Mayor

ATTEST:



Carla Reece, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Judith R. Baumann, City Attorney