October 7, 2015

Dear Coucilwoman Salyer,

It is with the utmost respect that the Native American Society of Oklahoma City University humbly requests your vote in favor of the City of Oklahoma City recognizing October 12 as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

While we understand that Columbus Day is a federal holiday, it is important that the capital city of a state well-known for its indigenous populations show appreciation for the people that help make our city and state beautiful, diverse and unique. By not celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day, the city ignores the resiliency and strength demonstrated by our people and further conceals the true history of these United States. From both the good sides and bad sides of history, we learn. We learn what we did wrong, what we could have done better and what we can do to prevent history from repeating itself. The city has already been a generous supporter of the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum, an incredible gesture that embraces the remarkable Native American cultures and people that thrive within our city and state. However, the city cannot truly call itself a supporter of tribal nations and their people if it refuses to act as a leader with the state and recognize the people who give this museum purpose and value.

It is with all of this in mind that we politely ask for your vote to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day in Oklahoma City. This acknowledgement would mean the world to us and our people, solidifying our relationship with the great City of Oklahoma City and State of Oklahoma.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Oklahoma City University Native American Society

Brianna Hillebrand, Choctaw

Brittony Tiger, Chickasaw

Caitlin Brown, Seminole

MaryAnn Guoladdle, Kiowa

Kiarah Bates, Absentee Shawnee

Sydney Wahkinney, Comanche

Kyle Wallace, Sac & Fox

Atticus Dellinger, Muscogee

Rev. David Wilson, Choctaw

Petition to change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day at Oklahoma City University

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Ali Brudley Ali Wonderly Courtney Buyer Maggio Duncan