Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Observance of Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day

Title
Observance of Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day

Question
Please provide your input on the observance of Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Introduction
In recent years, the City of Santa Clara (City) has received several resident inquiries regarding the City's observance of Columbus Day, most of which have urged the City Council to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Over the past several years, states and cities have started to acknowledge and substitute Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. This historical recognition across local jurisdictions is a collaborative effort to provide more representation of local and state history.

Columbus Day is a federal holiday that commemorates Christopher Columbus's landing in the Americas on October 12, 1492, and celebrates Italian-American culture and heritage. There has been controversy around the holiday due to Columbus' arrival to North America, which ushered in an era of European conquest and death of Native American people. With his arrival came violence, slavery, forced assimilation and conversion of Native American people to Christianity. It also introduced a host of new diseases that had consequential and long-term effects on Native American people.

The name Indigenous Peoples' Day honors the loss, legacy, and culture of those affected by Columbus' arrival and subsequent American colonization. This name still reflects on the same historical impact of the European Age of Discovery, but with the Native American people at the center of the narrative.

At the October 15, 2020 Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Task Force) meeting, the Task Force discussed the renaming of Columbus Day. The Task Force unanimously approved accepting the Mayor and Council Offices' referral to bring a recommendation to the City Council on the City's observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

This survey is intended to seek outreach from the community. The survey results are for research purposes only and will be forwarded to the Task Force for consideration when making a recommendation to the City Council.

Your Position
- ☐ Maintain Status Quo: Observe Columbus Day on the 2nd Monday of October

- ☐ Observe Indigenous Peoples' Day (or an alternate holiday name that honors Native Americans) instead of Columbus Day on the 2nd Monday of October

- ☐ Observe both Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day on the 2nd Monday of October or on different days.

- ☐ Observe Columbus Day on the 2nd Monday of October and observe Native American Heritage Day on the 4th Friday of September

Insert optional comment after selecting "Your Position"