



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31621

Record No.: Res 31621

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 1

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 09/24/2015

Final Action: 10/16/2015

Title: A RESOLUTION relating to the acknowledgment of the various harms and ongoing historical and inter-generational traumas impacting American Indian, First Nations, and Alaskan Natives for the forcible removal of Indian children and subsequent abuse and neglect resulting from the United States' American Indian Boarding School Policy during the 19th & 20th Centuries; supporting American Indian and Alaskan Native communities' efforts in calling on the United States Congress to commission a study and report on the United States' responsibility and role in adopting and implementing an American Indian Boarding School Policy; and committing to work with the local American Indian and Alaskan Natives in efforts of reconciliation in addressing the impacts of historical trauma, language and cultural loss, and alleged genocide.

Notes:	Filed with City Clerk:	<u>Date</u> 10/16/2015
	Mayor's Signature:	10/16/2015
Sponsors: Sawant	Vetoed by Mayor:	
	Veto Overridden:	
	Veto Sustained:	

Attachments:

Drafter: Emilia.Sanchez@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published: Yes No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	09/29/2015	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	09/30/2015	sent for review	Full Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Full Council						
	Notes:						

- 1 Full Council 10/05/2015 referred Full Council
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the Full Council
Notes:
- 1 Full Council 10/12/2015 adopted Pass
Action Text: The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:
Notes: Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31621.
In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Burgess, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Okamoto, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember Sawant
Opposed: 0
- 1 City Clerk 10/13/2015 submitted for Mayor
Mayor's signature
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was submitted for Mayor's signature. to the Mayor
Notes:
- 1 Mayor 10/16/2015 Signed
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was Signed.
Notes:
- 1 Mayor 10/16/2015 returned City Clerk
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was returned. to the City Clerk
Notes:
- 1 City Clerk 10/16/2015 attested by City Clerk
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.
Notes:
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CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31621

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5 A RESOLUTION relating to the acknowledgment of the various harms and ongoing historical
6 and inter-generational traumas impacting American Indian, First Nations, and Alaskan
7 Natives for the forcible removal of Indian children and subsequent abuse and neglect
8 resulting from the United States' American Indian Boarding School Policy during the
9 19th & 20th Centuries; supporting American Indian and Alaskan Native communities'
10 efforts in calling on the United States Congress to commission a study and report on the
11 United States' responsibility and role in adopting and implementing an American Indian
12 Boarding School Policy; and committing to work with the local American Indian and
13 Alaskan Natives in efforts of reconciliation in addressing the impacts of historical
14 trauma, language and cultural loss, and alleged genocide.

15
16 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle recognizes that Seattle is built upon the homelands and villages
17 of the Indigenous Peoples of the region; and

18 WHEREAS, In Resolution 31420 the City of Seattle was declared to be a Human Rights City on
19 December 10, 2012 committing itself to protect, respect, and fulfill the full range of
20 inherent human rights for all as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
21 and numerous other international human rights treaties; and

22 WHEREAS, on October 6, 2014 the City of Seattle passed Resolution 31538, the Indigenous
23 Peoples' Day resolution, to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of Indigenous
24 Peoples, and promote the well-being of Seattle's Native American, Alaskan Native, and
25 other American Indigenous Peoples; and

26 WHEREAS, in 2013 the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 59 tribes from
27 Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana, and Alaska, passed
28 Resolution 13-32 to "support the enactment of a bill by the United States Congress to
29 create a Commission on American Indian Boarding School Policy"; and

1 WHEREAS, the United States, at the urging of and in support of Christian missionaries of that
2 time, adopted the Indian Civilization Fund Act of 1819 to provide financial support for
3 church run schools to “civilize” Native American children through an education program
4 that promoted the eradication of Native American culture, and later adopted a Boarding
5 School Policy that also promoted the eradication of Native American culture and
6 language; and

7 WHEREAS, between 1869 and the 1960s at least 100,000 Native American children were
8 removed from their homes and families, often involuntarily, and placed in faraway
9 boarding schools that were funded and operated by the federal government and
10 missionaries, where according to the Meriam Report: The Problem of Indian
11 Administration, those children were: shamed for being Native American; punished for
12 speaking their tribal language; banned from engaging in any traditional, spiritual, or
13 cultural tribal practices; shorn of long hair and stripped of traditional clothing; and
14 severely neglected, subjected to harsh discipline and corporal punishment, and
15 physically, sexually, and mentally abused; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the Meriam Report: The Problem of Indian Administration, these
17 prevailing practices involved Native American children who: were overseen but not
18 parented; were bullied and assaulted not only by adults but also by older children under
19 the modeling and instruction of the school caretakers and staff; witnessed other children
20 suffer physical, sexual, and mental abuse, including punishment by physical restraints,
21 beatings, and isolation in inhospitable surroundings such as unlighted and unventilated
22 cellars and outbuildings designed as “jails”; and

1 WHEREAS, Article II(e) of the United Nations definition of genocide, as defined in
2 international law in the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of*
3 *Genocide*, states “*Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group*” with
4 intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group is an
5 act of genocide; and

6 WHEREAS, there are many who consider the actions taken under the Indian Civilization Fund
7 Act of 1819 and the American Indian Boarding School Policy to be acts of genocide; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger report, only
9 20 of the over 300 distinct Native American, Alaskan Native, and other American
10 Indigenous Peoples’ languages are estimated to survive by 2050, with the majority being
11 extinguished and lost particularly as a result of the United States’ American Indian
12 Boarding School Policy, which included a prohibition against Native children speaking
13 their tribal languages; and

14 WHEREAS, according to *Assimilation through Education: Indian Boarding Schools in the*
15 *Pacific Northwest*, Native American children who were indigenous to the Pacific
16 Northwest and lands known today as Seattle were forcibly removed from their homes and
17 families and transported to regional boarding schools, including Tulalip Boarding School,
18 Cushman Boarding School (later Cushman Hospital), and Chemawa Boarding School,
19 where they were forced to speak English and otherwise treated inhumanely as set forth
20 above, all of which affects Indigenous Peoples in the greater Seattle area and Pacific
21 Northwest in profound ways to this day; and

22 WHEREAS, according to *Boarding School: Historical Trauma among Alaska’s Native People*,
23 these Native American children, their children, and now their grandchildren and great-

1 grandchildren have become the legacy of the United States Indian boarding schools and
2 the federal policy that established and sustained those schools, and the trauma these
3 Native American children suffered has gone unrecognized and unresolved and has
4 instead passed onto each subsequent generation, and the resulting historical and
5 intergenerational trauma pervades, undermines and devastates Native American
6 individuals, families, and communities to this day; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States never has offered a meaningful apology, or offered to provide any
8 redress to, Native American, Alaskan Native and other American Indigenous Peoples for
9 the generations of harm caused by United States Indian boarding schools and the federal
10 policy that established and sustained those schools; and

11 WHEREAS, in November 1987, and reiterated in November 1997, the Bishops and
12 Denominational Executives from churches in the Pacific Northwest issued *A Public*
13 *Declaration to the Tribal Councils and Traditional Spiritual Leaders of the Indian and*
14 *Eskimo Peoples of the Pacific Northwest* wherein it issued "...a formal apology on behalf
15 of our churches for their long-standing participation in the destruction of traditional
16 Native American spiritual practices," while offering their "commitment to support you in
17 the righting of previous wrongs;" and

18 WHEREAS, the facts and history about the pervasive and continuing harm and trauma caused by
19 the United States' American Indian Boarding School Policy are poorly understood by the
20 American public, the United States Congress, the United States Executive Branch; and

21 WHEREAS, in order to begin a healing process to address the harm and trauma suffered by
22 Native American, Alaskan Native, and other American Indigenous Peoples as a result of
23 the United States' American Indian Boarding School Policy, a comprehensive national

1 study of the Policy and its impacts is needed, which should include documentation of the
2 events that took place at each of the boarding schools; the fate of the Native students; the
3 gathering of testimony from those who attended the schools; and recommendations to
4 Congress for truth, healing, reconciliation, redress, and justice;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
7 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

8 Section 1. The City of Seattle, in an effort to promote truth, healing, reconciliation,
9 redress, and justice, acknowledges the various harms, claimed acts of genocide, and ongoing
10 historical and inter-generational trauma to Native American, Alaskan Native and other American
11 Indigenous Peoples resulting from the United States' American Indian Boarding School Policy.

12 Section 2. The City of Seattle strongly encourages the Seattle Public Schools to include
13 both the history of the Boarding School era and the teaching of Native American, Alaskan
14 Native, and other American Indigenous Peoples' languages in school curriculum.

15 Section 3. The City of Seattle encourages the United States Congress and United States
16 Executive Branch to accept responsibility for the United States' American Indian Boarding
17 School Policy and its various harms and ongoing historical and inter-generational trauma to
18 Native American, Alaskan Native, and other American Indigenous Peoples, and to take
19 meaningful steps to promote truth and healing, and to provide and fund reconciliation, redress,
20 and justice for those harms.

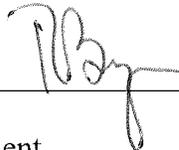
21 Section 4. The City of Seattle supports the enactment by the United States Congress of
22 legislation to conduct a comprehensive study and report on the United States American Indian
23 Boarding School Policy and to conduct hearings on boarding school abuses and their continuing

1 impacts on Native American, Alaskan Native, and other American Indigenous Peoples, all of
2 which is intended to promote truth and healing and to provide and fund reconciliation, redress,
3 and justice. The study and report should include a plan and design to gather information and take
4 recommendations from experts; to consult with and take recommendations from affected Native
5 American, Alaskan Native, and other Indigenous Peoples, especially to understand and address
6 the impacts historical and inter-generational trauma; to support Native American, Alaskan
7 Native, and other American Indigenous Peoples' language revitalization efforts; to raise public
8 awareness and provide public education about federal boarding school practices and their various
9 harms and ongoing effects; and to recommend and support modes of truth, healing,
10 reconciliation, redress, and justice in ways that are consistent with the traditions, practices, and
11 cultures of Native American, Alaskan Native, and other American Indigenous Peoples.

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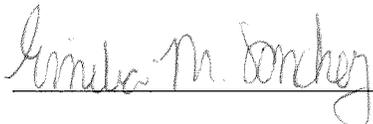
1 Adopted by the City Council the 12th day of OCTOBER, 2015, and
2 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 12th day
3 of OCTOBER, 2015.

4 
5 President _____ of the City Council

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7 The Mayor concurred the 16th day of October, 2015.

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9 
10 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

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12 Filed by me this 16th day of OCTOBER, 2015.

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14 
15 for Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

16
17 (Seal)

STATE OF WASHINGTON -- KING COUNTY

--SS.

330261

No.

CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:31621 RES TITLE ONLY

was published on

11/06/15

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$54.25 which amount has been paid in full.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. J. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

11/06/2015

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

Affidavit of Publication

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on October 12, 2015 and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://clerk.seattle.gov>. For information on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar>. Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (206) 684-8344.

Resolution 31621

A RESOLUTION relating to the acknowledgment of the various harms and ongoing historical and inter-generational traumas impacting American Indian, First Nations, and Alaskan Natives for the forcible removal of Indian children and subsequent abuse and neglect resulting from the United States' American Indian Boarding School Policy during the 19th & 20th Centuries; supporting American Indian and Alaskan Native communities' efforts in calling on the United States Congress to commission a study and report on the United States' responsibility and role in adopting and implementing an American Indian Boarding School Policy; and committing to work with the local American Indian and Alaskan Natives in efforts of reconciliation in addressing the impacts of historical trauma, language and cultural loss, and alleged genocide.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, November 6, 2015.
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