

**THE URBAN NATIVE EDUCATION ALLIANCE,
NATIVE WARRIOR ATHLETICS AND CLEAR SKY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
PROTECTING LICTON SPRINGS RESOLUTION**

2019

A RESOLUTION relating to the Duwamish sacred site, Licton Springs to be designated as a site of historic and cultural significance for protection, restoration, and preservation. Further, calling for the site to have culturally relevant and accurate signage and be revitalized to restore Indigenous plants and uncapping or day-lighting other mineral springs located at the site; and

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA), the Native Warriors Athletics (NWA) and Clear Sky Leadership Council invoke the blessing of the Creator in all our efforts and purpose to preserve Native cultural values, and promote the health, safety and well-being of all Native People; do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle was built upon the homelands, villages, gathering and sacred sites of the Duwamish People; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act is a United States (US) Federal Law and a joint resolution created to protect and preserve the traditional religious rights and cultural practices of American Indians, Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and Native Hawaiians. These rights include, but are not limited to, access of sacred sites, repatriation of sacred objects held in museums, freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rites, including within prisons, and use and possession of objects considered sacred; and

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

WHEREAS, Licton Springs is a xǎʔxǎʔali (Sacred Place) a place of spiritual power. This has been a Duwamish religious and holy site since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Licton Springs is a natural Magnesium, Sulphur, and Iron Oxide springs were regarded as possessing extraordinary healing Spirit-Power. The Springs are a treasured curative resource for the Duwamish Tribe ancestors. For countless generations, the Duwamish gathered at Licton Springs, together with their relatives by marriage, in the proper season for harvesting sacred Red-Ochre medicine, necessary for spiritual celebration, ceremony, and renewal; and

WHEREAS, for Chief Seattle’s Duwamish Tribe of Indians, Licton Springs is one of the last spiritual places remaining in our ʔálʔaltəd (Ancestral-Homeland). Licton Springs is located on the South Fork of tuw’xwúʔbid (“Thornton Creek”), a tributary to ʔáčuʔ (Big-Lake, Duwamish Lake, present-day “Lake Washington”); and

WHEREAS, there is no current cultural and historical signage located at Licton Springs park; and

WHEREAS, the Licton Springs Park is a unique ecological site for environmental learning for Licton Springs K-8 School, Robert Eagle Staff Middle School, Clear Sky Native Youth, Native Warrior Athletics, and neighboring school students alike; and

WHEREAS, the Licton Springs site continues to be a place of gathering for urban Seattle intertribal community. Cultural and traditional events, activities, and ceremonies including: Pow-wows, naming ceremonies, memorials, conferences, and on-going cultural and educational programming connects our intertribal community with Licton Springs site; and

WHEREAS, Licton Springs is a natural magnesium and sulphur springs have been ‘capped’ and no longer free flowing; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that the UNEA, NWA and Clear Sky Leadership Council commits to honor our commitment to preserve, restore, and protect Licton Springs Park by advocating for Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board designation of Licton Springs as a historic landmark subject to protection by City Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department works with our youth advocates, elders, and community members, the Duwamish and other Coast Salish tribal people to develop historically and culturally accurate signage for Licton Springs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Seattle work with our youth advocates, elders, community members, the Duwamish and other Coast Salish people to restore Licton Springs natural Magnesium and Sulphur springs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Seattle Parks and Recreation department works with relevant city departments to ensure the parks safety and cleanup of hazardous materials such as drug paraphernalia, debris, and other pollutants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UNEA, the NWA and the Clear Sky Leadership Council work to help educate the broader community about the historical and cultural significance of the sacred site Licton Springs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Seattle and the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department work with our youth advocates, elders, community members, the Duwamish and other Coast Salish people to ensure and allow access for the harvesting of cultural relevant medicines; and

NOW THEREFOR BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that UNEA, NWA, and Clear Sky Leadership Council hereby declare its full support to uphold our commitment to advocate, and promote cultural preservation, restoration, and protection of sacred sites and the designation of Licton Springs Park as a designated historic landmark protected under City of Seattle Landmark Preservation ordinance.

CLEAR SKY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:

Akichita Taken Alive (Standing Rock Sioux)	Daniel Brealan (<u>Coer d'Alene</u>)
Alex Escarcego (Assiniboine Sioux)	Ethan Gish (Lower Elwha)
Anthony Russel (Lower Elwha)	Isaac Hochberg (Assiniboine Sioux)
Asia Gellein (Cherokee)	Isaiah Mawudeku (Cherokee Chickamauga)
Cante Remle (Lakota, Hunkpapa)	JoAnne Sayers Pinkham (Ojibwa/Tlingit/Nimiipuu)
Chayton Remle (Lakota, Hunkpapa)	Timothy Shay Flamming,(Yakama)
	Victoria Olivera (Chicana/Taramarah)

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