



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 5/6/2025

File #: 25-589

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Natalie Arroyo

Agenda Section: Consent

Vote Requirement: Majority

SUBJECT:

Proclamation for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Awareness Month in Humboldt County

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the proclamation.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This action supports the following areas of your Board's Strategic Plan.

Area of Focus: Safe & Healthy Communities

Strategic Plan Category: 9999 - Core Services/Other

DISCUSSION:

The Board of Supervisors would like to recognize that nationally, May is Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Awareness Month and May 5 is MMIP Awareness Day. The Board wishes to increase awareness of missing or murdered Indigenous persons, whose cases far too often go unsolved, by proclaiming May as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Month in Humboldt County.

Research indicates that California has the largest population of Native Americans, more than any other state in the country and Humboldt County is home to many Indigenous Tribes, including the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People, Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe and Yurok Tribe, among others.

MMIP cases often go unsolved for a number of reasons, lack of data and public awareness, a lack of funding for law enforcement and a lack of coordination among federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies that could assist in resolving cases. Since data tracking of MMIP is scarce, the actual number of cases is unknown. However, statistics show that American Indian and Alaska Native women face murder rates 10 times higher than the national average and that cases of murdered and missing Indigenous women are seven times less likely to be solved than any other demographic.

The resources below have been provided to increase public awareness on this important topic:

- The Department of Justice found rates of sexual violence for Indigenous women are approximately 2.5 times higher than White, African American or Asian American women. [Sexual Violence Against U.S. Indigenous Females and Its Consequences <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9484449/>](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9484449/)
- In 2020, homicide was in the top 10 leading causes of death for AI/AN females aged 1- 45. [BIA.gov - Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Crisis <https://www.bia.gov/service/mmu/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-people-crisis>](https://www.bia.gov/service/mmu/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-people-crisis)
- Indigenous people in the also experience higher rates of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), putting them at increased risk for other forms of violence, such as homicide. These risk factors for violence are compounded by historical (war, loss of land, language, access to traditional ways and cultural identity), intergenerational (child and elder abuse and neglect), and ongoing (racism and structural inequities) traumas. 'CDC Archive: CDCs National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) Helps Tell the Story of Homicides of American Indian and Alaska Native People. <https://archive.cdc.gov/www_cdc_gov/media/releases/2021/p1118-violent-death.html> Note: As of 2025, the CDC no longer reports data from the NVDRS.
- Listen to the Vanishing Point podcast: Six episodes focusing on the local region, [Vanishing Point, 2023 <https://upandvanished.com/vanishingpoint/>](https://upandvanished.com/vanishingpoint/), narrated by Celisia Stanton.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

STAFFING IMPACT:

None

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Proclamation for MMIP Awareness Month

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A