



**CITY OF DOVER**

## CITY OF DOVER - RESOLUTION

Agenda Item#: 12.C.1.

Resolution Number: **R – 2021.05.26 – 080**

Resolution Re: Promulgation of a Land Acknowledgement for Dover

WHEREAS: The City of Dover recently established the ad hoc Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion; and

WHEREAS: The Committee acknowledges that the path to racial equity and inclusion begins with ensuring that the indigenous peoples that inhabited the land now known as Dover, NH thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers are recognized; and

WHEREAS: Land Acknowledgements are done to recognize and identify the first people who inhabited a place, to show respect, and to honor the land that is, and was, their homeland. It can be the first step towards reconciliation between the first people and the people who came to colonize a land that was already inhabited. Land Acknowledgements help prevent the colonial practice of erasure of the first peoples and invite true and accurate history to be taught and learned. Making a formal Land Acknowledgement fosters an atmosphere of respect, collaboration, and recognition; and

WHEREAS: The Committee has consulted with representatives of the Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki peoples to prepare a statement that acknowledges and honors the people, past and present, who have stewarded the land we now call Dover, New Hampshire; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND DOVER CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The City of Dover adopts the following as the City’s Land Acknowledgement statement:

“This (event/meeting) takes place at Cocheco (CO-chi-co) on **N’dakinna** (n-DA-ki-na), now called Dover, New Hampshire, which is the unceded traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki (a-BEN-a-ki), Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples, past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land, waterways, living beings, and the **Aln8bak (Al-nuh-bak)**, the people who have stewarded **N’dakinna** (n-DA-ki-na) for many millennia.”

### AUTHORIZATION

Approved as to Funding: Daniel R. Lynch  
Finance Director

Sponsored by: Councilor Dennis Shanahan

Approved as to Legal Form and Compliance: Joshua M. Wyatt  
City Attorney

Recorded by: Susan M. Mistretta  
City Clerk



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### DOCUMENT HISTORY:

First Reading Date: 05/26/2021	Public Hearing Date: N/A
Approved Date: 06/09/2021	Effective Date: 06/09/2021

### DOCUMENT ACTIONS:

Deputy Mayor Ciotti moved to remove from the table; seconded by Councilor Shanahan.  
 Roll Call Vote: 7/0.  
 Councilor Shanahan moved to substitute the Resolution as a whole; seconded by Deputy Mayor Carrier.  
 Roll Call vote: 7/0.  
 Councilor Cullen moved to amend the Resolution to remove the word “unceded” in the Now, Therefore;  
 seconded by Deputy Mayor Ciotti.  
 Roll Call Vote: 1/6; Failed. Councilor Cullen voted in favor.  
 Deputy Mayor Ciotti moved for the adoption of the substituted Resolution; seconded by Councilor  
 Shanahan.  
 Roll Call Vote: 6/1; Passed. Councilor Cullen was opposed.

<b>VOTING RECORD</b>		
Date of Vote: 06/09/2021	YES	NO
Mayor Robert Carrier	X	
Deputy Mayor Ciotti	X	
Councilor Michelle Muffett-Lipinski, Ward 1	Absent	
Councilor Deborah Thibodeaux, Ward 3	X	
Councilor Marcia Gasses, Ward 4	X	
Councilor Dennis Shanahan, Ward 5	X	
Councilor Fergus Cullen, Ward 6		X
Councilor John O'Connor, At Large	Absent	
Councilor Lindsey Williams, At Large	X	
Total Votes:	6	1
Ordinance does pass.		



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### **Background Information:**

The City Council Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion seeks to ensure that our community recognizes the history and legacy of the peoples that inhabited the land that we now call Dover, New Hampshire. One means to do this is public recognition of the indigenous peoples by way of an acknowledgement, such as the one included in this resolution.

The Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion presents this Land Acknowledgement now as an important contribution to celebrating and honoring our history as we approach the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settling of this area.

The City Council mandate for the Committee is to develop an action plan containing recommendations outlining “existing and new steps to be taken to work to eliminate any potential relics of past systemic racism in municipal operations.” Included in this action plan will be steps to ensure equitable recognition of all peoples that have contributed to making Dover what it is today. These recommendations may include enhancing an existing memorial park, or a new commemoration in a public area.

For clarification, this resolution is not intended to formally create, waive, or impact anyone’s or the City’s real estate or other rights and obligations, but instead is a gesture meant to acknowledge and educate the public about history.