

Statement in Support of HB18-1231
 Concerning the Repeal of Columbus Day as a Legal Holiday
 by Amy Zuckerman
 February 28, 2018

Honorable Legislators,

My name is Amy Zuckerman and I am former Chair of the City of Boulder Human Relations Commission. I support repealing Columbus Day as a Colorado legal holiday. My main reason is to have State legislation be consistent with Boulder's permanent Resolution, adopted August 2, 2016. Further, I believe it is only a matter of time that the State will find itself out of step with a growing list of Colorado municipalities removing observance of Columbus Day, even if they do not adopt an Indigenous Peoples Day.

Boulder is different and yet not different from the rest of Colorado. To reiterate from my comments last year, Columbus Day is not observed by major institutions in the City of Boulder:

- CU-Boulder – classes are in session
- City of Boulder – business as usual
- Western Disposal (trash service) – business as usual
- Saint Vrain Valley Schools – classes are in session
- Boulder Valley School System – professional day for teachers; classes not in session.

I will share some of City of Boulder's Resolution 1190, adopted August 2, 2016.

We acknowledge that facing our past, good as well as bad, makes our community stronger and more resilient. We acknowledge that citizens and officials in Boulder have caused and contributed to centuries of cruelty, exploitation and genocide. We acknowledge Boulder has benefited directly from Indian removal policies that violated human rights, broke government treaties and forced Arapaho People from their homeland.

Key historical points (for which I have included citations):

In 1859, Southern Arapaho Chief Left Hand told gold seekers that they could not remain on Indian landⁱ. After gold was discovered, the town was founded by settlers, breaking the promise to Chief Left Hand and the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie^{ii iii}.

In 1864, nearly 100 Boulder County residents mobilized at Fort Chambers (near 63rd and Valmont Streets), to become 'Indian Fighters'^{iv v vi}. Captain David Nichols, a former Boulder

County Sheriff, led 46 Boulder residents in what is known as the Sand Creek Massacre. The Boulder troops enjoyed a hero's welcome upon their return^{vii viii ix}.

Because of this history, which is not so different than the rest of the state, the Boulder City Council resolved in 2016,

1. That Boulder designates the second Monday in October of each year to be Indigenous Peoples' Day, and
2. That City departments work to correct omissions of the Native American presence in public places, cultural events and in Boulder educational curricula.

In summary, those who live in this state have a shared responsibility to forge a path forward to address the harm to Indigenous people, which originated with Christopher Columbus. I believe that the proposed legislation provides a fair path forward. Thank you.

Amy Zuckerman

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ⁱ Coel, Margaret. *Chief Left Hand*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981. Pages 66-67. Print.

ⁱⁱ Coel, Margaret. *Chief Left Hand*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981. Pages 80, 83. Print.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site*. National Park Service. Web. 13 July 2016.

^{iv} Oliver, Arch. Roster of Company D, Third Colorado Cavalry from Boulder, Colorado Territory, 1943. Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder Public Library. (BHS 328-9-34). Print.

^v Valentine, Jane Barker. "Chambers Homestead." *Historic Homes of Boulder County*. Boulder: Pruett Publishing, 1979. Page 143. Print.

^{vi} *Attention! Indian Fighters*. Poster. August 1864. Denver: History Colorado. (Military –Wars-Indian Wars –Sand Creek – posters, Scan #10025731). Print.

^{vii} Limerick, Patricia Nelson. *What's in a Name? Nichols Hall: A Report*. Boulder: University of Colorado. September 1987. Page 55. Print.

^{viii} Coel, Margaret. *Chief Left Hand*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981. Page 280. Print.

^{ix} Coel, Margaret. *Chief Left Hand*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981. Page 291. Print.