

FIRE COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

London N. Breed, Mayor

Katherine Feinstein, *President*
Stephen A. Nakajo, *Vice President*
Francee Covington, *Commissioner*
Ken Cleaveland, *Commissioner*



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Maureen Conefrey, *Secretary*

Resolution 2021-01

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) published a report in 2007 entitled, *Discrimination by Omission: Issues of Concern for Native Americans in San Francisco*, detailing the ways in which Native American communities experience systemic erasure and exclusion in San Francisco and identifying numerous recommendations for improved outcomes, a process which was guided by members of Native American communities, including the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Fire Commission joins with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and numerous other commissions and boards of the City and County of San Francisco in acknowledging that the Ramaytush Ohlone are the original peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Fire Commission acknowledges that the area comprising the City and County of San Francisco was originally inhabited by the Yelamu, an independent tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Fire Commission acknowledges that the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples have survived the brutalities of colonialism, enslavement, genocide, discrimination, racism, gender-based violence, theft, forced assimilation, and other atrocities driven by local, federal, and state government; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Fire Commission acknowledges that Ramaytush Ohlone peoples are not a mythical population of the past, but an integral and active community in the present San Francisco Bay Area region, and beyond, whose ongoing exclusion and invisibility denied the greater Native American community's inclusion and respect in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Fire Commission acknowledges that the City and County of San Francisco was founded on unceded territory, and that the existence of the City and County on this land continues to contribute to the erasure and exclusion of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, the American Indian community, and their history; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Fire Commission acknowledges that the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone has actively worked to research, expand public awareness of, and preserve Ohlone history and culture; and

WHEREAS, To acknowledge the truth of a land's history is a human right and demonstration of honor and respect for the contributions and sacrifices of the ancestors that inhabited and cared for this land before us; and

WHEREAS, A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the HRC, and the Office of Racial Equity have urged all boards and commissions in the City and County of San Francisco to begin each meeting with the below land acknowledgment, which was written and approved by the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone; and now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following land acknowledgement will be read aloud at the start of each San Francisco Fire Commission meeting that is open to the public:

The San Francisco Fire Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land, and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders, and Relatives of the Ramaytush Ohlone community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Fire Commission recognizes that the land acknowledgement is just the first step needed in acknowledging and honoring the land, culture, and contributions of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Adopted at the Regular Meeting of the San Francisco Fire Commission on August 25, 2021.

Ayes: 3 (Feinstein, Nakajo, Covington)

Nays: 1 (Cleaveland)


Maureen Conefrey, Fire Commission Secretary