



United Confederation of Taíno People

• Borikén (Puerto Rico) • Kiskeia (Dominican Republic) • Barbados
• Bimini (United States) • St. Thomas • Kuba • Guadeloupe

UCTP Governing Board

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September 21, 2020

To the Newton, MA City Council

Taigüei d'ituno kena d'atiaono (Good day my sisters and my brothers):

On behalf of the United Confederation of Taíno People, it is my pleasure to share this message on behalf of our Governing Board. The United Confederation of Taíno People (UCTP), is an Indigenous Peoples Representative Organization, which promotes the self-determination of Taíno and other Caribbean Indigenous Peoples and the recognition and protection of their human rights, culture, traditions, and sacred lands. The UCTP also affirms and seeks to safeguard Taíno and other Indigenous Caribbean cultural heritage and spiritual traditions, as well as promote spiritual, cultural, educational, health, economic, and social development. The Taíno peoples have a particular distinction in the history of the Americas as our ancestors were the very first Indigenous Peoples to encounter Christopher Columbus in 1492. Our ancestors were also the first Indigenous Peoples of the Western Hemisphere to be called "Indians" and the first to suffer brutal oppression and colonization under Columbus and his contemporaries.

The UCTP, therefore, would wholeheartedly support a decision of Newton City Council to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day. Columbus as a "hero" is mythology. This false narrative erases Indigenous Peoples from the mainstream consciousness. An honest review of his diaries along with what his contemporaries wrote about him reveals that the legacy of Columbus is genocide, religious intolerance, racism, and White supremacy. African Americans also have no reason to celebrate him, as Columbus also began the transatlantic slave trade.

In closing, the UCTP considers a decision to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day in Newton a just and moral decision, that seeks to full the promise of human rights for all. We trust you will be bold and take this honorable step toward understanding, tolerance, and conciliation.

Seneko kakona (Abundant blessings),
Roberto Múkaro Agüeibaná Borrero,
President, UCTP

CC: UCTP Governing Board of Directors