



# PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** *a Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects the Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of a particular land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional lands; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the City of Mesa acknowledges that the Ancestral O'Odham and their direct descendants, the O'Odham (Pima) and Piipaash (Maricopa) have lived on the land that comprises present-day Mesa since time immemorial; and*
- WHEREAS,** *United States Indian Claims Commission Docket 228, dated December 17th, 1970, declared the land area exclusively used and occupied by the O'Odham and Piipaash at the time of American accession to encompass 3,751,000 acres spanning almost the entirety of Maricopa County and much of Pinal County; and*
- WHEREAS,** *anthropological studies recognize the ancestral lands of the O'Odham, Piipaash, and their ancestors as a vast area ranging far beyond both the municipal limits of present-day Mesa and the exclusively used and occupied land area identified in the aforementioned United States Indian Claims Commission case; and*
- WHEREAS,** *numerous Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act consultations have determined Native American human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred objects, and other objects of cultural patrimony taken from Mesa and its neighboring communities to be culturally affiliated with the ancestors of the O'Odham and Piipaash; and*
- WHEREAS,** *historical records and archeological discoveries dating to the Spanish, Mexican, and American periods of governance document O'Odham and Piipaash habitation in present-day Mesa and its neighboring communities; and*
- WHEREAS,** *we honor the legacy of the Native peoples who came before us, respect those who continue to contribute to our City, and are committed to promoting Native cultural heritage and furthering Native education within our Mesa community.*





# PROCLAMATION

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN GILES, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Mesa, Arizona, do hereby proclaim:

**THE LANDS THAT COMPRISE PRESENT-DAY MESA AS BEING CULTURALLY AFFILIATED WITH THE O'ODHAM, PIIPAASH, AND THEIR ANCESTORS, AND MAKE THIS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The following statement acknowledging the land that comprises present-day Mesa as being culturally affiliated with the O'Odham, Piipaash, and their ancestors, will be reverently memorialized and made available for use as oral and written statements for programs, services, ceremonies and other applicable purposes within the City of Mesa:

The City of Mesa acknowledges that we gather on the homeland of the Native people and their ancestors, who have inhabited this landscape from time immemorial to the present day. The landscape is sacred and reflects cultural values central to the O'Odham (known as the Pima) and the Piipaash (known as the Maricopa) way of life and their self-definition. This acknowledgment demonstrates our commitment to work in partnership with Ancestral Indigenous Communities to foster understanding, appreciation, and respect for this heritage.

The City of Mesa has preserved and continues to steward sites and landscapes located within the boundaries of Arizona's tribal nations, including the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC) and the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), which are among the 22 federally recognized Arizona Indigenous tribes. We appreciate and value the opportunity we have to share in the significance and beauty of these lands that mean so much to so many. We offer our respect to all O'odham and Piipaash of the past, present, and future, and honor their legacy through the vital meaning and intent of this land acknowledgment statement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Mesa, Arizona to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

  
John Giles, Mayor

Attest:

  
Holly Moseley, City Clerk

