

Draft dated 9/8/2012

Resolution_____

A resolution of the Missoula City Council recognizing government-to-government relations between the City of Missoula and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and organizing a joint meeting of the Missoula City Council and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council

Whereas, the aboriginal territory of the Bitterroot Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Orielle tribes stretched across 20 million acres of what would become Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, and Wyoming; and

Whereas, the Hellgate Treaty of 1855 established the Flathead Reservation; and

Whereas, in 1891, under pressure from the U.S. government, the last of the Bitterroot Salish were relocated from their ancestral home in the Bitterroot Valley to the Flathead Indian Reservation by way of the Higgins Street Bridge in Missoula; and

Whereas, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal government was established pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and

Whereas, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes is a sovereign nation; and

Whereas, Missoula is Montana's second largest city, by population, and occupies aboriginal territory of the Bitterroot Salish; and

Whereas, the City of Missoula was incorporated in 1883; and

Whereas, Missoula is home to many members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; and

Whereas, the well-being of both the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the prosperity of the City of Missoula are intertwined;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the City of Missoula acknowledges that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes is a sovereign tribal nation and by virtue of that recognizes that there exists a government-to-government relationship between the City of Missoula and the Tribes; and

Be it further resolved that the City of Missoula commits to fostering dialogue with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to enhance the social and economic well-being of both our respective jurisdictions; and

Be it further resolved that the City of Missoula commits to hosting a joint gathering of both the Missoula City Council and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council to explore opportunities to strengthen the relationship between the City of Missoula and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Passed and adopted this __ day of _____, 2012.

Attest:

Approved:

Martha L. Rehbein
City Clerk

(SEAL)

John Engen
Mayor