

Office of the Mayor  
City of Fayetteville  
**Proclamation**



**WHEREAS:** Indigenous Peoples Day began in 2004 when Dr. Dick Bennett, the founder of the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology in Fayetteville, recommended that the University of Arkansas host an observance in recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day, and

**WHEREAS:** each year we meet at the Trail of Tears Memorial Marker in Fayetteville to commemorate indigenous peoples and remember the Trail of Tears, which was the result of federal legislation declaring that no foreign government, which included American Indian tribes, could be physically located within the borders of the United States of America, and any tribe that failed to disband or move of its own accord to the specially-designated Indian Territory of present-day Oklahoma was forcibly removed by federal forces, and

**WHEREAS:** thousands of people died during this thousand-mile journey over the Trail of Tears, a collective reference to the many paths used by the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw and Seminole nations when they were forced west, and the forced removal of American Indians over the Trail of Tears is one of America's greatest tragedies, and

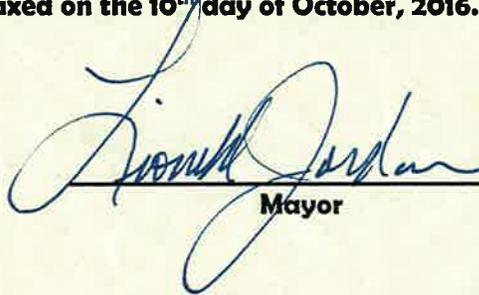
**WHEREAS:** John Benge led 1,100 Cherokees from their homelands in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee through the frontier village of Fayetteville, Arkansas to "Indian Territory" as part of the forced removal of nearly 13,000 Cherokees ordered by President Andrew Jackson and the United States Congress, and this group of weary, homeless Cherokees camped on the hillside north and east of the historic Fayetteville marker, securing supplies and repairing wagons before heading west to Cane Hill the next day and on to Indian Territory, arriving there on January 17, 1839,

**NOW THEREFORE, I, Lioneld Jordan, Mayor of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas do hereby proclaim October 10, 2016 as**

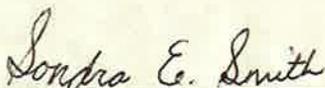
**"INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS DAY"**

in Fayetteville, Arkansas and urge all citizens to join me in focusing on the Trail of Tears in Fayetteville and Northwest Arkansas today.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas to be affixed on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.**

  
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Mayor

**Attest:**

  
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City Clerk

