

# Indigenous Peoples Day NYC

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## ***PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MICHAEL BLOOMBERG CALLS SHINNECOCK NATION A "DISASTER"***

*INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY NYC COMMITTEE STANDING IN SOLIDARITY  
WITH THE SHINNECOCK NATION ISSUES A REQUEST TO BLOOMBERG TO  
VISIT THE NATION AND ENCOURAGES OTHER LEADERS TO VISIT  
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES*

**New York City, NY (March 3, 2020)** On Friday February 28, 2020 Presidential Candidate and former Mayor of New York City Michael Bloomberg took to the stage during a Native American Sovereignty forum in Oklahoma City and made a very discriminatory statement regarding the Shinnecock Nation. Mr. Bloomberg stated "There's a Native American tribe near where I live, the Shinnecock Nation, and it is just a disaster, it has all sorts of problems...I will help them as well because we can't have a group where there is all the domestic violence, and drugs, and alcoholism."

Mr. Bloomberg has resided in the Hamptons for decades and according to local Shinnecock Nation leaders, he has never set foot on the Shinnecock reservation. Not only has he not engaged with the Shinnecock Nation who have occupied, honored, and protected their homelands for 10,000 years, he did not engage Indigenous organizations of New York City during the three terms he was mayor.

Indigenous organizations in the New York City area, along with tribal members from the Shinnecock Nation and surrounding tribal nations have been working and standing together in solidarity for many years calling upon New York City to Recognize Indigenous Peoples Day instead of "Columbus Day." For 5 years, a 24 hour celebration for Indigenous Peoples Day with Indigenous culture, music, song, dance, food, ceremony, and prayer has been held on Randall's Island, New York City. The next event is October 11-12, 2020 [www.ipdnyc.org](http://www.ipdnyc.org).

Formal invites every year have been sent to the Mayor's office along with all fifty-one New York City council members: not one official leader has attended the annual Indigenous Peoples Day event. For Presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg to say that he will help Indigenous communities is a surprise and lacks credibility given his proven lack of engagement with the Shinnecock Nation and our Indigenous organizations of New York City.

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The Indigenous Peoples Day Committee of NYC has always stood with Shinnecock Nation. As first contact people of the New York area, the Shinnecock have been resilient and have remained in their ancestral lands despite the hardships faced over the last 400 years.

Mr. Bloomberg, along with every other presidential candidate should visit Indigenous communities in which they live and work diligently to understand these communities' needs.

The Indigenous Peoples Day Committee of NYC will continue to raise the visibility of Indigenous Peoples, celebrating their resilience, strength, and ongoing contributions to American culture and history.

**Indigenous Peoples Day Committee of NYC:** Redhawk Native American Arts Council; United Confederation of Taíno People; Safe Harbors Indigenous Collective; Redrum First Nations MC; Redspirit RC; Schaghticoke First Nations; Fundacion Semilla Warunkwa; NA OIWI NYC; Indigenous Peoples Movement; Seeding Sovereignty; Ochanisa; Stop Columbus Day Sales; Indigenous Kinship Collective

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