

**Health Commission  
City and County of San Francisco  
Resolution 21-4**

**RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Commission acknowledges that the Ramaytush Ohlone are the original peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges that the area comprising the City and County of San Francisco was originally inhabited by the Yelamu, an independent tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the arrival of the Spanish, the Ramaytush Ohlone were a hunter society that numbered approximately 1,500 people that lived in eleven tribelets. By the end of the Mission Period, only a few families survived; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges that the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone has actively worked to research, expand public awareness, and preserve Ohlone history and culture; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Human Rights Commission published a report in 2007, "Discrimination by Omission: Issues of Concern for Native Americans in San Francisco," detailing the ways in which Native American communities experience systemic erasure and exclusion in San Francisco, and identifying numerous recommendations for improved outcomes, and process which was guided by members of Native American communities, including the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges that the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples have survived the brutalities of colonialism, enslavement, genocide, discrimination, racism, gender-based violence, theft, forced assimilation, and other atrocities driven by local, stated, federal, and global governments; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges that the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples are not a mythical population of the past, but an integral and active community in the present San Francisco Bay Area region, and beyond, whose ongoing exclusion and invisibility threaten the greater Native American community's inclusion and respect in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges that the City and County of San Francisco was founded on unceded territory, and continues to participate in the erasure and exclusion of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

WHEREAS, To acknowledge the truth of a land's history is a human right and demonstration of honor and respect for the contributions and sacrifices of the ancestors that inhabited and cared for this land before us; and

WHEREAS, A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories; and

WHEREAS, it is important to counter the narrative regarding the “doctrine of discovery” with the acknowledgement that there were already thriving communities living on this land when Europeans arrived.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that the following land acknowledgement will be read aloud at the start of each Health Commission and Department of Public Health meeting that is open to the public:

The San Francisco Health Commission/San Francisco Department of Public Health staff acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush (rah-my-toosh) Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land, and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders, and Relatives of the Ramaytush Ohlone community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission Rules and Regulations will be revised to include the mandate to read the land acknowledgement at the start of each Health Commission public meeting; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission directs the San Francisco Department of Public Health, through the Director of Health, to develop a staff protocol by July 1, 2021 with instructions for implementing the Land Acknowledgement requirement at all DPH public meetings; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission recognizes that the land acknowledgement is just the first step needed in acknowledging and honoring the land, culture, and contributions of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its March 2, 2021 meeting adopt the foregoing resolution.

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Mark Morewitz, MSW  
Health Commission Executive Secretary