

## Cambridge Proclamation

### WHEREAS

King Philip or Metacom led his people into a war for independence, property rights, and the pursuit of happiness. English colonists defeated his forces in bloody conflict in 1675-1676 and murdered Metacom. They imprisoned many Christianized New England Indians on islands in Boston Harbor where half of some 900 internees died of starvation and exposure. Several dozen Indian captives were publicly executed on Boston Common by hanging or shooting. Many were sold into slavery; and

### WHEREAS

In this 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of British colonists arriving in Plymouth, much attention will be focused on Plymouth 400 while there will be very little examination of King Philip's War, a rebellion against the British exploitation of Indians in New England, that cast a long shadow over American history; and

### WHEREAS

In the 1830s, a Native minister named William Apess, who fought for the rights of Native Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, wrote and delivered in Boston a eulogy for King Philip, meant to celebrate the Native past, recall Philip's fight for liberty, and protest the continuing injustices of his present; and

### WHEREAS

The First Parish Church in Cambridge has joined with several partners, including the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag, MASS Humanities, the New England Consortium for the Humanities, and the Northeastern Humanities Center, to organize a program at the church on March 27, 2020, "Native New England, Christianity, and War – A Public Reading of the Eulogy on King Philip by William Apess"; and

### WHEREAS

Native people from all over New England will come together to honor the memory of King Philip and William Apess, and the ongoing struggle to which they gave themselves. They will hold a staged reading of Apess's eulogy followed by conversation about the meanings of the eulogy regarding history and our contemporary times; now therefore be it

### RESOLVED

That the City Council go on record proclaiming March 27, 2020, as William Apess Day in the City of Cambridge and further be it resolved that the City of Cambridge encourages its citizens to attend the March 27 program in order to better understand and engage with this history and how this history relates to our present times.