

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND
HILDA L. SOLIS

May 5, 2026

**Proclaiming Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Awareness Week
in Los Angeles County**

For decades, Native American and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities have faced disproportionately high rates of assault, abduction, and homicide among their members. This ongoing crisis, known as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP), is deeply rooted in historical trauma stemming from colonization, forced labor, the boarding school system, and government-sanctioned violence. These forces profoundly disrupted and devastated Native communities across successive eras of rule in Los Angeles, including the Spanish, Mexican, and American periods. Generations of marginalization have increased vulnerability, contributing to disproportionately high rates of poverty, housing instability, child welfare involvement, and disparities within the justice system. These ongoing conditions continue to create significant barriers to safety and well-being for Indigenous Peoples today.

According to a 2021 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

HORVATH _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

homicides of AIAN individuals between 2003 and 2018, homicide was the fifth leading cause of death among AIAN in 2018. Furthermore, data from these cases show that AIAN women make up a significant portion of missing and murdered individuals. Despite the severity of this crisis, there remains a lack of comprehensive data on missing and murdered Indigenous people. Existing data is often incomplete or inadequate, meaning the true number of cases may be underreported. Additionally, the issue continues to receive insufficient media attention.

California is home to the largest AIAN population of any state in the country and in recent years, the state legislature has taken several steps to try to address this issue. In 2022, Assembly Bill 1314 (Ramos) established the Feather Alert, a preventative measure designed to help locate and reunite missing and endangered Indigenous people with their families. Operated by the California Highway Patrol, the statewide program disseminates public information about missing Indigenous individuals and coordinates response efforts among tribal, local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. In 2023, the Board approved a motion authored by Supervisor Solis [“Proclaim May 5, 2023, as National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Ensure Swift Implementation of the Feather Alert”](#) which recognized the State’s efforts to respond to the crisis through the creation of the Feather Alert system and underscored Los Angeles County’s responsibility to ensure these systems are effectively implemented through better coordination, data sharing, and communication, particularly in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Sheriff.

Building on these efforts, in 2023 Governor Gavin Newsom also signed Assembly Bill 44 into law, which requires the Department of Justice to grant qualified Federally

Recognized Tribes access to the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, facilitating improved information sharing and coordination between tribal and state law enforcement agencies.

Native-led organizations continue to lead efforts to raise awareness of the MMIP crisis and strengthen response systems, including the use of the Feather Alert. Pukúu Cultural Community Services is a Native American nonprofit that has a Tutčint Power Fellowship, which successfully advocated for the establishment of MMIP Week in 2026 through a youth-led initiative in partnership with Supervisor Horvath. Fellowship participants also contributed to statewide policy discussions as panelists at the MMIP Tribal Policy Summit hosted by the Yurok Tribe.

Given Los Angeles County's significant AIAN population, accessible and effective alert systems are essential when Indigenous relatives go missing. The County remains committed to ensuring that cases involving Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples are treated with urgency and to advancing efforts to address and reduce this crisis.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim May 4-11, 2026 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Awareness Week in Los Angeles County and encourage all County residents to learn more about MMIP and how to get involved.
2. Encourage the County-wide Communications, the Executive Office, and all County Departments, and the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission to uplift MMIP to County residents and staff by encouraging them to wear red on May 5, 2026, in solidarity with survivors and to raise awareness.
3. Request the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) affirm its commitment to

assisting with locating missing indigenous people by sharing its policy and procedures on the Feather Alert activation to all staff, local public safety partners, LANAIC, and report back to the Board in writing in 60 days on recommendations to develop a system to track and report on Feather Alerts initiated annually as part of an overall effort to proactively respond more quickly, collaboratively, and effectively to potential missing and murdered indigenous persons.

#

LH:rf