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****Media Advisory****

**City of Framingham to Place a Historical Marker at Indian Head Heights
Wednesday, June 12, at 4 p.m.**

FRAMINGHAM, MA – In 2018, then McAuliffe School student, Elana Gelfand, chose to act on something she felt passionate and uncomfortable about for years, the name Indian Head Road due to the historical suffering of indigenous people.

After doing thorough research, including speaking with indigenous rights activists, Ms. Gelfand came to the City Council to express her concerns with the naming of Indian Head Road and Indian Head Heights.

The City asked Fred Wallace, Historical Commission Chair and City Historian, to investigate the origin of the name. "I would like to commend Ms. Gelfand both for taking a stand on an issue in which she sees a social injustice, and on her willingness to bring the matter to the attention of our government and the public," said Wallace.

Upon completion of his research, Wallace determined that the both the Indian Head Road and Indian Head Heights names are descriptors of a specific geological feature. As well, according to Wallace, "The naming of these two streets probably dates to the early to mid-twentieth century, when the developer found a reference to the name 'Indian Head,' and with little concern for its origins or meaning, chose it. At the time, the issues over indigenous people were non-existent."

Wallace suggested that the City place a historical marker in the neighborhood, providing some background and early history.

- **What:** Ceremony to recognize the history and provide background on the Indian Head Road and Indian Head Heights neighborhood, including the installation of a new historical marker.
- **Who:** Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer; City Councilor Cheryl Tully Stoll; Historical Commission Chair, and City Historian, Fred Wallace; Ms. Elana Gelfand; Ms. Shari Gelfand; Nipmuc Tribe Member Larry Spotted Crow Mann
- **Where:** Indian Head Heights at the Water Tower
- **When:** Wednesday, June 12, 4-4:30 p.m.

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