

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of evidence has emerged regarding the unjustified civil and constitutional violations perpetuated against Italian Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Italians were the largest group of immigrants in the United States at the start of World War II; of the five million Italian immigrants residing in the United States at the time, all but 600,000 were citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the climate of fear that arose after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the federal government classified these 600,000 immigrants as "enemy aliens"; and

WHEREAS, for much of 1942, most of these immigrants were not allowed to travel more than five miles from their homes without police permission; security restrictions required dozens of Italian American fishermen to surrender their boats to the Coast Guard; in addition, hundreds were forced to give up their jobs as a result of curfews; and

WHEREAS, authorities conducted searches in Italian American neighborhoods in many cities and confiscated firearms, radios, cameras, flashlights, and other objects that could be used as signaling devices; and

WHEREAS, 1,600 Italian immigrants were interned at Fort Missoula in Montana, and 10,000 immigrants were forced to move from California coastal communities to inland areas; and

WHEREAS, there is no evidence whatsoever that any of the Italian Americans targeted by authorities were engaged in treasonous activities; and

WHEREAS, while these violations to civil liberties and constitutional rights were occurring, approximately 500,000 Italian Americans served in the Armed Forces during World War II, and many of these soldiers sacrificed their lives in the defense of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal government should issue a formal apology for the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II to allow the healing process to begin for the individuals and families who suffered as a result of these policies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 4147 (Lofgren) which would declare that Congress apologize on behalf of the nation for violations of the civil liberties and constitutional rights of Italian Americans during World War II.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino  
JOE BUSCAINO  
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

APR 22 2016  
[Signature]  
BMR

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