



## Consiglio Generale degli Italiani all'Estero

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April 24, 2016

Hon, Mitch O'Farrell, Councilman, 13<sup>th</sup> District  
Chairman of Arts, Parks and River Committee  
City of Los Angeles  
200 No. Spring Street,  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Subject: Motion File# 15-1343

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Dear Councilman O'Farrell,

On March 21, 2016, your Committee considered a Motion (O'Farrell - Wesson) relative to establishing Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City holiday. According to the Motion, Native Americans are descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were the original inhabitants of this continent. One way to recognize the enormous historical contributions of Native American heritage and Indigenous People is through celebrations of culture, recognition of traditions, and the continued support of artistic self-expression. You stated The City of Los Angeles has a rich and unique history and diversity represented within the indigenous population residing here. In recognition of cultural contributions and the tribal presence here, the City celebrates American Indian Heritage Month every year.

We are in favor with no objection because the Italian Americans **respect** all other ethnic group traditions, including the **Native Americans** and like to preserve the history. **However, we want to make sure and request your kindly confirmation that the rumors and political speculations will remain simply rumors, and the celebration to give a tribute to the Italian Americans known as "Columbus Day" will stay untouched!**

Since the time the Italian explorer and navigator Christopher Columbus discovered America, Italians have shaped the culture of your great City, State and Nation.

On Oct. 12, 1866, out of pride for Columbus, their native son, the Italian population of New York City organized the first celebration of the discovery of America. In 1869, when Italians in San Francisco celebrated Oct. 12, they called it Columbus Day. In 1905, the State of Colorado became the first State to observe Columbus Day, and since 1920 the day has been an annual national celebration, with **the proclamation designating October 12th as Columbus Day by President Theodore Roosevelt**. The declaration in 1971 by President Richard Nixon designated the second Monday in October as a **Federal public holiday**.



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**Columbus Day is a day** recognizing the countless Italians and Italian-American pioneers who, with a great spirit of discovery, pursued the unknown. Indeed, scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs, have all worked together to better the world. There are about 25 millions Americans of Italian descent in this Great Nation! **We also want the same respect in keeping alive our tradition and heritage!**

In recent years many immigrants have made a new home in Los Angeles and in "the Golden State" to build better lives for themselves and their families. Their hard work is evident as one looks around the city to realize that in many streets, buildings, and real estate developments and architectural designs, there is an Italian influence to show the contributions made by these citizens. The significance of the celebration will also be to demonstrate our deepest appreciation for the State of California and the greater city of Los Angeles area for giving many Italian-Americans and all citizens the opportunity to grow. We, as the Italian-American Community, strive to make additional contributions to assist the City of Los Angeles in shaping their cultural life and participating in more activities in the future.

We look forward to celebrate with you the day to honor Italy's rich heritage and the enduring bonds between our countries during the month of October, dedicated to the Italian language and culture in the world, and to share a moment of friendship with the community at large. We would greatly appreciate your consideration on this matter and your kindly reply.

Sincerely,

Vince Arcobelli

Member Elected in USA

Council General for the Italians Living Abroad(CGIE)

Cc: Hon.Eric Garcetti,Mayor ,City of Los Angeles  
Hon.Herb J Wesson,President of City Council  
Hon.Joe Buscaino,Councilman 15<sup>th</sup> District  
Members of the Arts Parks Committee  
Hon.Bob Blumenfield,Councilman 3<sup>th</sup> District  
Hon.Paul Koretz,Councilman 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Hon.Curren D.Price,Councilman 9<sup>th</sup> District  
Hon.David E.Ryu,Councilman 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Hon.Antonio Verde,Consul General of Italy in Los Angeles  
Hon.Carlo Romeo,First Counsellor,Italian Embassy  
Hon.Renato Turano,Italian Senator elected in North America  
Hon.Fucsia Nissoli,Italian Parliamentary,elected in North America  
Hon.Francesca La Marca,Italian Parliamentary,elected in North America  
Hon.Silvana Mangione,V.Secretary General,CGIE  
Hon.Eleonora Granata,President Committee of Italians Living Abroad(LA)  
Hon.Quintino Cianfaglione,Coordinator,Intercomites USA  
Hon.Jerry Puccio,President,CSNA  
Hon.Roberto Menia,Secretary General,CTIM  
Hon.John M Viola,President,NIAF  
Hon. Daniel J Longo,President,OSIA  
Hon.Joseph Sciame,Chair Conf.Pres.Italian Americans Organizations



## Coordinamento Nord America

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Hon, Mitch O'Farrell, Councilman, 13<sup>th</sup> District  
Chairman of Arts, Parks and River Committee  
City of Los Angeles  
200 No. Spring Street,  
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Dear Councilman O'Farrell,

The Committee Tricolor for the Italians Living Abroad was founded in 1968 and has branches all over the world and a lot of followers in USA. We also have an Office Representative in Los Angeles as well with many members associated.

The scope of the organization is to assist the Italian Community Abroad, in respect of civil rights, equal opportunity, promotion of the Italian language and culture, the traditions and preserve the history. We are well aware on the last update regarding your proposal.

Indeed on March 21, 2016, your Committee considered a Motion (O'Farrell - Wesson) relative to establishing Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City holiday.

Our organization have friends as Native Americans descendent, and we recognize and respect the enormous historical contributions in this Continent through celebrations of their culture, and agree with the decision of the LA City in celebrating American Indian Heritage Month every year.

**In the mean time we would like that the respect in recognition of the different communities will be reciprocal with the one that we proudly represent and we will appreciate your committee high consideration in continuing support in order to give a tribute to the Italian Americans with the celebration knows as "Columbus Day", since the proclamation declaration by United States President Roosevelt and Nixon in 1971.**

CTIM Headquarter

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## Coordinamento Nord America

**Columbus Day is a day** recognizing the hard work of the Italian Americans have all worked together to better the world. There are about 25 millions Americans of Italian descent in this Great Nation, with many brilliant individuals. With more than half million Italian Americans residing in the greatest area of Los Angeles we want to be assured that the “Columbus Day” as symbol of the Italian Americans most important and unique celebration in keeping alive **our tradition and heritage!**

We look forward to celebrate with you on the second Monday of the October Month the day to honor Italy's rich heritage and the enduring bonds between our countries and to share a moment of friendship with the community at large.

We would greatly appreciate your Committee High Consideration and prompt response on this matter.

Sincerely,

Vincenzo Arcobelli  
Coordinator, North America

Cc: Hon.Eric Garcetti,Mayor ,City of Los Angeles  
Hon.Herb J Wesson,President of City Council  
Hon.Joe Buscaino,Councilman 15<sup>th</sup> District  
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