



# ASSYRIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

5901 Cahuenga Blvd.  
North Hollywood, CA 91601  
Phone: (818) 506-7577  
Direct: (818) 806-8576

## OFFICERS

**Ramond Takhsh**  
*President*

**Jon Koriel**  
*Executive Vice-President*

**Domarina Danipour**  
*Executive Secretary*

**David Lachin**  
*Controller*

**Victor Orshan**  
*Treasurer*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sargon Kanoon**

**Nardine Mikaeli**

**Alice Shamoon**

**Peter Warda**

**Sargon Yadegar**

**Edmon Younan**

June 20, 2017

To the Honorable Herb Wesson, President of the Los Angeles City Council

To the Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council

RE: Indigenous Peoples Day (Council File 15-1343)

I am writing to you on behalf of the Assyrian American Association of Southern California (AAASC), in strong support for Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's effort to repeal Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day (Council File 15-1343) in the City of Los Angeles, on the second Monday in October.

Recognizing the contributions, history, and sacrifices made by the original inhabitants of the Los Angeles area is long overdue. In recent years, there is a greater awareness of the well documented history of the Americas from the time Christopher Columbus set foot on the shores of what is historically referred to as Hispaniola in 1492.

Indeed, Columbus returned three additional times to the "New World", setting in motion a genocide that would last centuries, the effects thereof are still felt today.

Later, the Spanish missionaries came to California, decimating native Tribes to the point of extinction in some cases. It is time for Los Angeles to reflect on the legacy of these actions and create a permanent tribute to the people who made it possible for the rest of us to make a life for ourselves on the lands that the original inhabitants were so mercilessly removed from.

As Assyrians, we understand the struggle and strife many of these early inhabitants might have endured. As indigenous peoples of the Middle East, we have also witnessed and been subject to genocides, oppression, forced land removal, and other heinous acts based on ethnic and religious association. AAASC stands with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell in the support of Indigenous Peoples Day.

Thank you for voting in favor of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Respectfully,

Ramond Takhsh  
President

Assyrian American Association of Southern California

---

**Assyrian American Association  
of Southern California**  
5901 Cahuenga Blvd.  
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Phone: (818) 506-7577  
Direct: (818) 806-8576  
E-Mail: [theaaasc@gmail.com](mailto:theaaasc@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.aaaofsc.org](http://www.aaaofsc.org)