



Clínica Msr. Oscar A. Romero Community Health Centers

August 25, 2017

In Support of Establishing Indigenous Peoples Day

Dear Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero, we would like to express our strong support for abolishing Columbus Day in the City of Los Angeles, and establishing Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October.

The notion that Columbus discovered the Americas stems from the idea that indigenous peoples were less than human, and for that reason, the Americas were a "vacant" land. These ideas have no place in today's contemporary society, and must be, once and for all be rejected. Columbus is a pivotal figure in the large-scale genocide and colonization of indigenous peoples in the Americas. That legacy of slavery, exploitation, rape and torture that should no longer be celebrated and codified by the City of Los Angeles.

Columbus' actions have negative consequences that have continued through the generations for Native peoples. Today, Native Americans and indigenous peoples suffer the worst outcomes on almost every socio-economic indicator of wellbeing—including rates of poverty, high school completion, life expectancy, youth suicides and representation in the child welfare and criminal justice systems. Native peoples also the only group to still be treated as mascots and called derogatory names by major public figures.

The City of Los Angeles, home to the largest urban indigenous communities in the United States, has not only the opportunity, but the responsibility, to stand on the right side of history. To adopt Indigenous People's Day is a step towards healing and reconciliation in Los Angeles that is so critically needed, and as such, we appeal to you to adopt Indigenous People's Day on the second Monday of October and abolish the designation of that day as Columbus Day. By doing so, you will be granting Native Americans the rights that all Americans deserve—the right to feel safe, respected and included as part of this country's cultural and historical legacy.

Clinica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero's mission is to provide quality, affordable, and culturally sensitive health care and other services to the underserved communities of Greater Los Angeles regardless of their ability to pay by upholding the legacy and tradition of Monseñor Oscar A. Romero. We are driven to educate and empower Salvadoran, and other community members, through community organizing, health education, and social justice and exchange programs in El Salvador.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ana Grande, Policy & Community Relations at (213) 201-8353 or at agrande@clinicaromero.com

Sincerely,

Sandra Rossato, MHA
Executive Director



From: "sandra sunshine williams" <sandrasdelmundo@gmail.com>
Date: Aug 25, 2017 3:26 PM
Subject: Urge Support of Indigenous People's Day
To: <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>
Cc: <councilmember.davidryu@lacity.org>, <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>, <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, <councilmember.buscaino@lscity.org>

August 24, 2017

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

I am writing to express my strong support for Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's effort to repeal Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous People's 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.

Thank you for voting in favor of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.
It's long overdue!

Sincerely,

Sandra Sunshine Williams
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