



THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE FOR CONSTITUENT ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
-OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-

Members of the Council,

August 29, 2017

The California Office for Constituent Advocacy and Community Affairs is a public service group that, amongst other things, assures that the voices of every community in California is heard by said community's respective elected representatives.

It is our belief that a strong and steadfast connection and adherence to community sentiment is integral to the good governance of every jurisdiction, as well as the faithful execution of the duties one assumes as an elected official.

In light of this principle, and in consideration of the native communities that thousands of Angelenos are members of, we highly recommend that you consider renaming the second Monday of October of every given calendar year henceforth and forevermore "Indigenous People's Day".

This act alone would signify the commitment of the City of Los Angeles to native communities within its jurisdiction, and in our view reinforce the solidarity Los Angeles has had with communities across the board regardless of defining factor.

The City of Los Angeles has long been a leader in advancing not equity but equality, not simply for itself but as a metropolitan change agent for the entirety of the State of California. We ask that you allow it to remain as such by allowing it to join over sixty other cities across the United States who have recognized; the significant contributions, elaborately rich cultures, and incredible and continued advances native peoples have made throughout the nation for all of those who call the United States home.

As such we issue the before mentioned recommendation to the City Council of the City of Los Angeles, CA and invite anyone who may have a question, comment, or concern to contact us directly via email at contact.caladv@outlook.com or phone at 909-293-3438.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angel A. Rios". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angel A. Rios

Director

California Office for Constituent Advocacy and Community Affairs

City of Los Angeles Mail Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

In Support of Indigenous Peoples Day

1 message

Patricia See <ptrisha17@gmail.com> Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 1:41 PM

To: michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Dear Mr. Espinosa,

It has recently come to my attention that there is to be a vote tomorrow, August 30, 2017, to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day in the City of Los Angeles. I'd like to offer my encouragement to the Council to pass this. This country of America was not discovered by Columbus. It was already inhabited for centuries by the Native Americans. We need to honor them. They preserved their country by natural means, as opposed to the destruction that "Americans" have today. Please pass this letter along to the Council to help influence their vote.

Below you will find another letter from my friend. She is blind and does not have an email account. So I am adding below her words to be included in this action.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Patricia See

THIS IS THE LETTER TO BE INCLUDED BY MY FRIEND, PEGGY PRICE:

Dear Mr. Espinosa,

Los Angeles should be the city that leads the way for changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. We call upon the better angels of our nature to do the right thing. I send my support for this change countless times over.

Thank you very much.

Peggy Pricev

August 18th, 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 there of 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.

Sincerely,

John Girodo

1929 Whitley Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90068



Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples
120 Broadway, Suite 105
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Phone: 310-678-1747 Fax: 310-394-6178
E-Mail: a.mooneydarcy@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.sacredplacesinstitute.org>

Aug 29, 2017

Honorable Herb Wesson
President, Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Hall
East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: Letter in Support of Indigenous Peoples Day, Adopt Motion CF 15-1343

Dear Honorable Herb Wesson, President Los Angeles City Council and the Honorable Members of the City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our 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.

Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples (SPI) is located on the southern California coast in the ancestral homelands of the Tongva people. Our mission is to build the capacity of Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples throughout California, the United States, and around the world to protect sacred lands, waters, and cultures. Our long-term goal is to create paradigm shifts that support environmentally and socially just systems and assure the continuation of Indigenous cultures and people.

We wholeheartedly believe that part of creating the paradigm shift needed to support sustainable social and environmental justice is dismantling markers of white supremacy that celebrate settler colonial genocide. SPI supports and adopts by reference the information contained in the Indigenous Peoples Day Fact Sheet prepared by the Los Angeles Indigenous Peoples Day Coalition.

Additional important points to consider include the following:

- **WE HAVE ALWAYS CELEBRATED ON THIS DAY:** Indigenous Peoples Day has been celebrated by Native Americans on the second Monday in October since at least the 1970s – as a day of remembrance of our ancestors, as a means of dispelling the myth that Columbus discovered America, and to celebrate our survival, resilience and deep contributions to all peoples that now live on this land.
- **WE ARE SEEKING TRUTH AND REONCILIATION:** The second Monday is critical to repeal Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day, because we are seeking truth and reconciliation. Establishing Indigenous Peoples Day on any other day except the second Monday in October is an avoidance tactic supported by those that do not wish to accept the truth about the violent history of colonization, slavery and land dispossession that was this country's founding. We are asking for this truth to be told, so that we may reconcile and heal with our past, and forge a future that respects us all. Replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples is an important step towards racial truth and reconciliation in this country that the events in Charlottesville show us that we so desperately need
- **WE ARE PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN:** The second Monday is critical because we are working to counter the negative images, stereotypes and false history that our children are subjected to during this time of the year.

- The American Psychological Association has come out against these racist aggressions based on a growing body of social science literature that shows the harmful effects of racial stereotyping and inaccurate racial portrayals, on the social identity development and self-esteem of American Indian young people.
 - Our young people suffer suicide at 300 times the national average, and we cannot afford to continue to harm our youth.
 - Establishing Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday of October will serve as an antidote to these negative messages. It will demonstrate to our youth that our peoples, our cultures, our deep contributions are recognized and celebrated by the city of Los Angeles.
- **WE ARE STANDING WITH CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY:** Indigenous Peoples Day has been adopted in more than 60 cities across the country on the second Monday in October. To choose another date would fragment Los Angeles' Indigenous Community – the largest in the entire country – from celebrations, commemoration and truth, reconciliation, and healing from Indigenous communities across the country.
 - **WE FOLLOWED YOUR PROCESS:** The Los Angeles Indigenous Community has shown up to every hearing and meeting that has been scheduled, and has easily outnumbered any opposition by a very large margin. There is widespread consensus on the motion to abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day. We call on the Los Angeles City Council to respect its own process, and stand on the right side of history with this important and historic vote.
 - **WE ARE COUNTERING THE ERASURE OF TONGVA, TATAVIAM AND CHUMASH PEOPLES:** The myth of Columbus contributes to historical amnesia of the Indigenous Peoples whose land we all live on. We are countering the erasure of Los Angeles' Indigenous Peoples by celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day in place of Columbus.
 - **WE ARE COUNTERING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION:** Existing Columbus Day promotes racial discrimination. Recognition of Indigenous Peoples who represent important communities in the City of Los Angeles through the establishment of Indigenous Peoples Day on October 12th as an official city holiday would advance internationally reaffirmed calls for “promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.”

Today those of you voting on this motion have an opportunity to take one step toward real acknowledgement of the wrongs perpetrated against Indigenous Peoples in Tongva and Tataviam lands now known as Los Angeles, throughout California, and around the world. Perhaps most importantly, and especially in light of recent acts of violence perpetrated around the country in the name of hate, you have an opportunity today to take a real step toward healing. We respectfully request that the Los Angeles City Council formerly abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Sincerely,



Angela Mooney D'Arcy, J.D.
Executive Director

Cc: Michael Espinosa email Michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Indigenous Peoples Day, From a Constituent

1 message

katie strunk <ktstrunk@yahoo.com> Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 4:04 PM

Reply-To: katie strunk <ktstrunk@yahoo.com>

To: "councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org" <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>

Cc: "Councilmember.Rodriguez@lacity.org" <Councilmember.Rodriguez@lacity.org>, "arturo.chavez@lacity.org" <arturo.chavez@lacity.org>, "doug.tripp@lacity.org" <doug.tripp@lacity.org>, "Michael.Espinosa@LACity.org" <Michael.Espinosa@lacity.org>
Mr. Cedillo -

Haawka (Hello).

I live in the city council district that you represent. I am Kumeyaay (Diegueno) and Payómkawichum (Luiseno). I voted for you earlier this year because I did not want to vote for a bigot.

Our city, located on Tongva land, was built on the backs of indigenous people from all over the region, including people from my nations. The city of Los Angeles exists because of the sacrifices of my ancestors. And because you and I live on Tongva land, we are both directly benefitting from the destruction of the Tongva people at the hands of Spain, Mexico, and the U.S.

It is disgusting that Columbus Day exists.

It is disgusting that we do not do more to acknowledge the people who paved the way for us to be here.

It is disgusting that anyone in our liberal-minded city would vote against replacing a day that celebrates a terrorist of indigenous people with a day celebrating indigenous people.

It is disgusting to pander to someone who doesn't realize how abhorrent Columbus Day is.

As I mentioned, when I voted in the city council elections earlier this year, I wanted to vote for the person who wasn't a bigot.

Uuhayi (Thank you),

Katie Strunk

Just a few references to the indigenous contribution to the formation of Los Angeles:

IMG_9248.JPG

<https://la.curbed.com/2016/10/6/13177830/los-angeles-cemetery-history>

<http://laplaza.lacounty.gov/PDFs/La%20Plaza%20Historic%20Context%201.4.13.pdf>



Señora de Los Angeles Cemetery

We remember and honor those who came before us.

The earliest burial listed in church records at La Placita Church cemetery took place on January 6, 1823. The decedent was a Native American named José Maria, who is recorded as being of "Diegueño" (Kumeyaay) origin. The last known burial, of Juan Bautista, a Native American who is recorded as being of "Sierra" (possibly Serrano) origin, took place on November 8, 1844.

Find out more about Los Angeles's first residents.