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Council File No. 15-1343

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Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Los Angeles
C/o City Clerk, City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles CA, 90012

Attention: Eric Villanueva
Legislative Assistant

ARTS, PARKS AND RIVER COMMITTEE: LOS ANGELES HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT (HCIDLA) REPORT RELATIVE TO REQUEST TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION, TO REPORT ON THE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE AND CULTURAL IMPACT OF ESTABLISHING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AS A LEGAL CITY HOLIDAY

SUMMARY

This report is the first from the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) and the Human Relations Commission in response to City Council Motion (CF 15-1343; O'Farrell, Wesson) on the historical importance and cultural impact of establishing Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City Holiday. A full report follows.

BACKGROUND

On March 21, 2016 The City Council introduced motion (CF 15-1343) instructing the human relations with the assistance of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Commission to report on both the cultural and fiscal impact of establishing Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City Holiday.

THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The City established the Human Relations Commission (HRC) in response to the civil unrest of 1965 in the Watts community. The commission was tasked with helping bridge the chasm created by the social and racial inequity that was highlighted by the community response in the aftermath of the riots. In an effort to close the cultural and social divide that led to violent confrontations and created community tension, the City HRC was created in 1966 with the objective of “*improving human relations, promoting equal rights and opportunities for all and fostering the elimination of all forms of discriminations...based on race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, [sexual identification].*”

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was created through a joint effort of members of the Los Angeles American Indian community and the Los Angeles City and County governments. The Indian Commission was officially established by the County of Los Angeles on June 25, 1976.

RESEARCH PROCESS

As a partner, LANAIC guided the City HRC through the complex and multilayered Native American Indian community in Southern California. Throughout the process, LANAIC provided support and technical assistance to ensure the voices of Native Peoples were heard and understood. LANAIC understood that the process by which the City HRC engages was neutral fact-finding, not trying to interfere or weight the report in any direction. LANAIC respected and encouraged transparency and honesty in the research process, and worked to inform the Indigenous community in Los Angeles on engaging in the fact-finding process. LANAIC also framed this as a *truth and reconciliation* process. As one commissioner said and others echoed, “The time has finally come for the truth to come out and reconciliation can now begin.”

NATIONAL TRENDS

The City of Los Angeles is one of most racially diverse metropolis in the United States and in the world. With such diverse urban space, one challenge for the local government is the construction of a positive and reaffirming public space for all residents. One of the strongest ways local government broadcasts a positive public message is through public celebrations of cultural diversity via sanctioned holidays. This is inherently a politically driven process, where local elected officials redistribute public resources through funding and allocating public spaces to support these public celebrations. Distribution of public goods is not a controversial issue when the *perception* by citizens at large is that there is enough for everyone to go around and everyone benefits.

As expected, controversy arises when the perception is that one group benefits over the other—a zero-sum game paradox. The challenge for the City, therefore, is to enact a public celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day that will be viewed as enriching and benefiting everyone in the city, by recognizing the deep roots and historical debt the city has to the original local native communities (the Gabrielino/Tongva) and acknowledging the contributions the larger Native American and Indigenous migrant communities make to the city. Additionally, in the process to acknowledge the historical contributions and struggles the Italian American community has experienced, both in Los Angeles and the country at large.

The current national trend is that more and more cities are honoring Native Americans/Indigenous Peoples by replacing Columbus Day with an Indigenous Peoples Day. In 2015, nine cities across the country decided to end Columbus Day and celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day, including Albuquerque, New Mexico; Portland, Oregon; St. Paul, Minnesota; Bexar County, Texas; Traverse City, Michigan; and Olympia, Washington. The previous year, the holiday was celebrated for the first time in Minneapolis and Seattle. These cities follow the precedent set by South Dakota in 1990, when the state renamed Columbus Day to Native American Day, and by Berkeley in 1992, when the city created Indigenous Peoples Day.¹ Three other California cities, San Fernando, Santa Cruz, and Sebastopol, as well as Dane County, Wisconsin, also now celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day, according to *Indian Country Today*. Alaska and Oregon do not celebrate Columbus Day at all, while Hawaii calls it Discoverers' Day, honoring the Polynesian explorers who first arrived at the archipelago.² In 2016, Denver, Phoenix, Vermont, and Minnesota joined in changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.³

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN LOS ANGELES

Researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) have recently undertaken a digital mapping research project, *Mapping Indigenous Los Angeles*, to attempt to make visible the deep roots the City has with the local Native and Indigenous populations. The idea that the City has long been a multiethnic hub at the center of a global crossroads is central to this project. The project's main goal is to place prominently in the City's cultural geography the idea that "Indigenous Los Angeles" includes the Gabrielino/Tongva and Tataviam.

The researchers indicate the Gabrielino/Tongva and Tataviam struggle for recognition of their sacred spaces and recognition as nations; are American Indians who were removed from their lands and displaced through governmental policies of settler colonialism; and Indigenous diasporas from Latin America and Oceania where people have been displaced by militarism, neoliberal economic policies, and overlapping colonial histories."⁴ As the researchers state, "Los Angeles has the largest Indigenous population of any city in the US. While many would argue that there is not one Los Angeles but multiple LAs, what is less known is that there are multiple Indigenous LAs whose histories are layered into the fabric of the city."⁵

There are significant contributions by Native Americans including but not limited to agriculture, medicine, self-governance, music, language and art. In addition, Indigenous peoples are globally

¹ See the *Associated Press* article "More cities are recognizing Native Americans on Columbus Day." By Mary Hudetz, Oct. 11, 2015. <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/b20eb79e5c51492f808fa728eace8d11/more-cities-recognize-native-americans-columbus-day>. Retrieved October 7, 2016.

² "Seattle Poised to Replace Columbus Day With Indigenous Peoples' Day." By Richard Walker, September 23, 2014. *Indian Country Today*. <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2014/09/23/seattle-poised-replace-columbus-day-indigenous-peoples-day-156997>. Retrieved October 7, 2016.

³ "Quest to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day sails ahead," by Marilia Brocchetto and Emanuella Grinberg, CNN.

⁴ See full description of research project *Mapping Indigenous LA*: <https://mila.ss.ucla.edu/>. The leading researchers of this project are UCLA professors Mishuana Goeman (Gender Studies Department) and Maylei Blackwell (Chicana/o Studies Department). Retrieved October 2, 2016.

⁵ See "The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010" in *2010 Census Briefs*. <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-10.pdf>. Retrieved October 2, 2016.

recognized inventors, scholars, and spiritual leaders. Thus, it is fitting that the City of Los Angeles honor the historic contributions of Indigenous, Aboriginal and Native peoples by establishing Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City holiday.

INDIGENOUS MIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN LOS ANGELES

During the community meetings organized by the City HRC about establishment of Indigenous Peoples Day, one community of people supporting the proposal were Latin American immigrants, which is not surprising. The migration of Indigenous people, particularly from Mexico and Central America, has increased dramatically in recent years. Some sources estimate there are over one million immigrants from Latin America in the US for whom Spanish is not their first language.⁶ California, which is home to the largest American Indian population of any state in the country with $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million people⁷ and more than 100 federally recognized tribes,⁸ is also the largest receiving state for Indigenous migrants from south of the border. The two largest Indigenous groups by population in California today are Mixtecos and Zapotecos, who originate from the Mexican state of Oaxaca.⁹ Los Angeles is also home to a considerable Mayan and Pipil population, who have settled here in the years following the civil wars in Guatemala and El Salvador.

Los Angeles is a particularly rich setting to understanding shifting notions of race, ethnicity, immigration, and Indigeneity. American Indians in Los Angeles have a complex social and political landscape with members of large federally recognized Native nations residing and shaping notions of what it means to be Indigenous in the homeland of the Tongva (Gabrielino) and Tatavium (Fernandeño), who are not federally recognized. There is a significant potential for tensions between groups and within communities given the fact that American Indians are diverse and may hold vastly divergent ideas about belonging based on blood quantum, tribal status (recognized or unrecognized), geographic place of origin (e.g., local or nonlocal, Californian or non-Californian, US or non-US), tribal enrollment status, etc. This is compounded by the large influx of Indigenous peoples from both south of the border and throughout the world. The dominant tendency of the larger society toward both American Indians and Indigenous migrants is erasure and, as groups, their needs are rarely understood, prioritized, or met in policy contexts. Indigenous Los Angeles could become what Ramirez calls an *Indigenous hub*, where many native nations meet and build community.¹⁰

TRIBAL ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN INDIAN NATIONS (TASIN)

The Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN) is an intergovernmental association of federally recognized tribal governments throughout Southern California. Members are the descendants

⁶ Hispanic Economics states that figures range from 500,000 to 1,250,000. Numbers were derived by Hispanic Economics from the following sources: Pew Hispanic Center, Embassies of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Peru and Ecuador in Washington, New America Media Sources, Mexican Migration Project at the University of Pennsylvania, Hispanic Economics, Inc. In Hispanic Economics (2013) "Mexican Native Americans Decline to Cooperate with the U.S. Census," Available online at: <http://www.hispaniceconomics.com/overviewofushispanics/mexicannativeamericans.html>. Retrieved October 2, 2016.

⁷ See 2010 Census Briefs. Op. cit.

⁸ "California Tribal Communities," California Courts. Available online at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/3066.htm>. Retrieved October 2, 2016.

⁹ Fox, Jonathan and Rivera-Salgado, Gaspar (eds.) (2004) *Indigenous Mexican Migrants in United States*, La Jolla: UC San Diego, Center for Comparative Immigration Studies.

<http://www.riener.com/viewbook.cfm?BOOKID=1492&search=indigenous+mexican>. Retrieved October 2, 2016.

¹⁰ Ramirez, Renya (2007) *Native Hubs: Culture, Community, and Belonging in Silicon Valley and Beyond*. Duke University Press, Durham.

of Native Americans who have called California home since the beginning of time according to their traditions, and by thousands of years according to scientists.¹¹ TASIN's mission is to protect and promote the tribal sovereign government rights, cultural identity and interests of federally recognized tribes located within the Federal Central Judicial District within the State of California. Since 1995, the tribes of TASIN have worked to protect and advance the rights of tribal nations.

TASIN believes that recognizing Native Peoples is core to understanding the truth of California history. As such, the motion presented by Councilman O'Farrell to consider establishing Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City holiday was supported by the TASIN, as it represents a meaningful statement and opportunity to educate and engage with the citizens and leaders of the City, and bring light to the cultures and traditions of indigenous peoples everywhere.

LOS ANGELES TODAY

As Patrick Wolfe proclaims about settler colonialism, "colonialism is not an event but a structure" and it requires a "process of elimination."¹² Part of this process has been the continual regulation of Indigenous peoples to the past. For example, the overabundance of mission models does not actually tell of the experiences Indigenous peoples of Los Angeles, instead the models flatten them into an overarching colonial narrative and positions Indigenous peoples as relics of the past. The reiteration of this past actively erases the ongoing presence of Indigenous peoples as well as their political and human rights.

As stated earlier, *Los Angeles is home to one of the largest populations of Indigenous people in the United States*. The Indigenous people include those who are native to Southern California and Indigenous peoples who have relocated here. Given these numbers and the national and international awareness of Indigenous rights and a growing movement not only in the United States, but across the globe, it becomes imperative for Los Angeles to look at its Indigenous lineage as a point of celebration and preservation. Indeed, one of the key arguments made by Indigenous stakeholders is that while culture and tradition are and have been preserved, their presence and contribution to the fabric of the city continue to be nominal and on the periphery.

"If you're there being presented with a live, living person, it really gets past that stereotype that Indian people are dead or still dying, what people don't realize is we've actually increased in numbers, and we've increased in knowledge and we've increased in the recovery of our languages through revitalization, and that's kind of what we want to show, that vibrancy."

Mishuana Goeman, UCLA Professor, Gender Studies

"Federal recognition isn't to show power—that's not what we're looking for," he adds. "Why can't they recognize the small portion of people who are alive today who can prove we are who we are? Give us at least the recognition for all we've been through. Recognize us. We're here."

Andy Tautimez Salas, Chairman Kizh-Grabrieleno

¹¹ <http://www.tasin.org/about-us>.

¹² *Settler Colonialism and the Transformation of Anthropology*. Patrick Wolfe, 1999.
<https://globalsocialtheory.org/thinkers/patrick-wolfe-2/>

LOS ANGELES COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND LOS ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations was made aware of the City of Los Angeles motion and prepared a brief for their board on September 2016. On October 5, 2016, the County Commission on Human Relations passed a resolution that recommended the following to be considered by the County Board of Supervisors: *Replace the countywide recognized holiday known as Columbus Day with a newly established Indigenous Peoples Day.* The Commission's recommendation is aligned with community input and follows research that was conducted by City HRC.

The Los Angeles Unified School District recognizes Indigenous Peoples Day as follows: Columbus Day/Discoverer's Day (Board Rule 1102): The federal holiday that honors all explorers and commemorates Christopher Columbus' sighting of the new world on October 12, 1492. *Observed the second Monday in October.* International Day of World's Indigenous People is held on August 9 and : celebrates the richness of Indigenous cultures and the recognition of the challenges to Indigenous peoples today.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The City HRC undertook an assessment of the impact on community relations and the historical importance of the motion introduced by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (Motion No. 15.1343, November 2015) proposing to establish an Indigenous People's Day as a legal City paid holiday. Councilmember O'Farrell subsequently clarified that the motion does not explicitly state that the creation of the new holiday would replace the existing Columbus Day.

To undertake this historical assessment and community impact, the City HRC assessed the impacts of this motion for community relations in the city of Los Angeles. The Commissions approach included reaching out to key core-constituency groups who would be directly affected by the motion.

The core groups contacted by the City HRC included representatives of the:

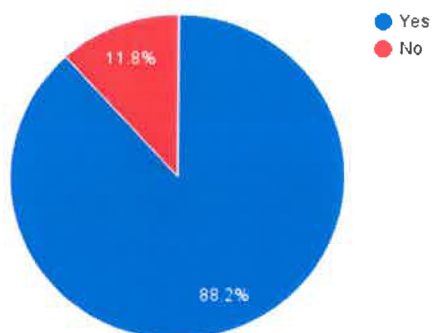
- Local Native American communities and organizations
- Indigenous immigrant communities
- Italian-American community
- Stakeholders within the general community
- Academics specialist in the field of Native American studies and ethnic relations.

With these groups, the City HRC conducted in-person interviews, phone interviews and small group discussions, as well as a roundtable discussion attended by over 70 individuals. The roundtable brought both groups together in a passionate discussion on what Columbus Day represents to each community and the importance of recognizing Native and Indigenous peoples' contribution both historical and present day.

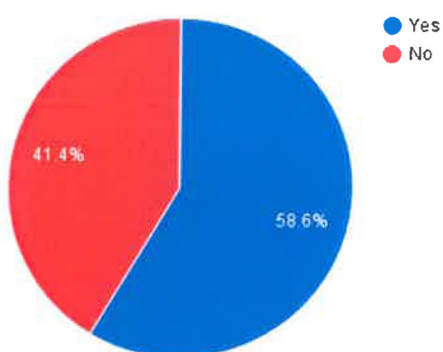
The City HRC also posted a survey and asked for community input on the possible creation of Indigenous Peoples Day and received over 125 survey responses and dozens of letters and emails.

The principle findings of four key questions of the survey are as follows:

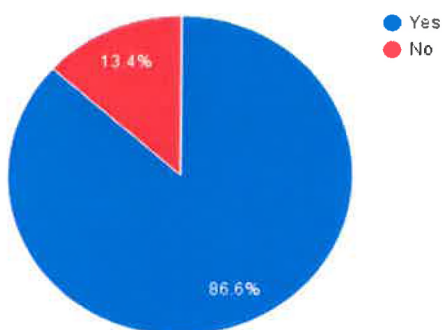
Do you support the creation of Indigenous People's Day for the City of Los Angeles?



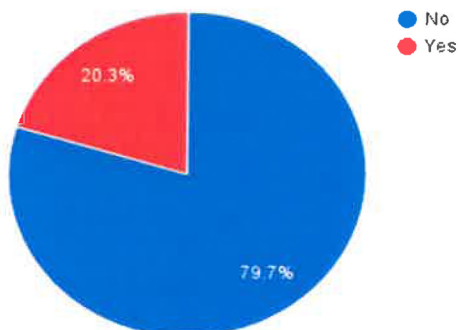
Should Indigenous People's Day replace Columbus Day?



If you support the creation of an Indigenous People's Day, should it be a holiday?



Do you associate Columbus Day with the celebrating of Italian Heritage?



What would the creation of an Indigenous People's Day mean to you?

reconciliation

Correct history

Righting the wrong

Reconciliation

Resolution

The people who first lived in America.

THE RECOGNITION OF THE CULTURE, HISTORY AND PEOPLE THAT WERE PRESENT IN THE AMERICA'S PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF COLUMBUS

W pulls rather see Native American Indian

Finally coming to the truth

Respect for indigenous

Recognition that we are still part of the fabric of this country

Reconciliation

Rectifying history

Hope that LA is not like the rest of the racist county

Real history and acknowledging the reality of history

Stop the whitewashing

The goal of the Commission's community engagement efforts was to gather testimonies from stakeholders about establishing an Indigenous Peoples Day in the City of Los Angeles. A summary of the key points include:

- There is consensus across all stakeholders in supporting the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples Day celebration in Los Angeles.

- Sharp disagreement exists in how the creation of an Indigenous Peoples Day should be done. The two positions are:
 - The Native American community, self-identified Indigenous people, and others feel strongly that Indigenous Peoples Day should replace Columbus Day. They see “Columbus as a European colonizer who set in motion the genocide of an entire people.”¹³ From their perspective, the establishment of Indigenous Peoples Day in Los Angeles would redress that historical wrong. They also point to the historical record of him being a murderer, rapist, and slave trader as argument to stop celebrating him, and see it as an overt aggression against Indigenous peoples that should not be celebrated by the City of Los Angeles.
 - Italian Americans and others support the establishment of Indigenous Peoples Day, however, they strongly opposed replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day since they identify Columbus as an important figure in their heritage and call such efforts “anti-Italian American.” As historian Christopher J. Kauffman wrote, “Italian Americans grounded legitimacy in a pluralistic society by focusing on the Genoese explorer as a central figure in their sense of peoplehood.”¹⁴

ITALIAN AMERICANS AND COLUMBUS DAY

In exploring the possibility an Indigenous Peoples Day holiday for the City of Los Angeles and looking at the national trend of other municipalities adopting the observance, the City HRC understood that instituting an additional paid holiday would be a fiscal challenge, given all other budget priorities facing the City. Because of this, the City HRC, as with many other cities, opted to look at existing holidays already being observed and naturally looked to the Columbus Day celebration as a possible replacement.

In the United States, the celebration of Columbus Day is closely linked with the struggle of integration by Italian Americans. After strong lobbying from the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic service organization consisting largely of Italian Americans, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed October 12, 1937, as the first Columbus Day. Congress passed the Monday Holiday Law in 1968, establishing the three-day weekend for some federal holidays and adding Columbus Day as an official public holiday. By then, 45 states were already observing it.

According to proponents of Columbus Day, its importance is about not about one man but “rather, our country's “Columbus Day” is about the birth of a nation, the discovery of a New World, the center of which, the United States of America, continues to shine as the glittering center jewel of *Opportunity, Freedom and Tolerance*.”¹⁵ In other words, Italian Americans had closely tied their modern day ethnic identity to the celebration of Columbus Day.

However, the embracing of Columbus Day was and is not universal among Italian Americans. According to *Immigrants Against the State: Yiddish and Italian Anarchism in America* (by Kenyon

¹³See: “This is why we still have Columbus Day.” By Christine Mai-Duc, October 12, 2015. *Los Angeles Times*. <http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-columbus-day-why-do-we-still-celebrate-20151012-htmlstory.html>. Retrieved on October 7, 2016.

¹⁴ As cited in “How Columbus Sailed Into U.S. History, Thanks To Italians.” October 14, 2013 by Lakshmi Gandhi. *National Public Radio Code Switch*. <http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/10/14/232120128/how-columbus-sailed-into-u-s-history-thanks-to-italians>. Retrieved on October 7, 2016.

¹⁵ “Why We Celebrate Columbus Day: The Pathway to ‘The Golden Door.’” By Victoria Miragliotta, *Italian Voice*, [Vol: 82, No. 22: 1-3, 2013]. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1460869733?accountid=9840>. Retrieved October 2, 2016.

Zimmer), southern Italian anarchists “sporadically disrupted Columbus Day parades in Italian American communities.”

It is within this context that recent efforts to eliminate or rename the Columbus Day holiday in various states and cities have met strong resistance from Italian Americans. In 2002, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that the Los Angeles City Council voted to allow City employees to take Cesar Chavez Day as a paid holiday instead of Columbus Day. This move prompted a strong opposition from the Italian American Community. As a compromise, the council allowed City employees to celebrate either holiday. (Although California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger eliminated the Columbus Day state holiday as part of a budget-cutting measure in 2009, Los Angeles city and county offices still observe it. The Los Angeles Unified School District does not.)¹⁶

Today, their children and grandchildren constitute the nation’s fifth largest ethnic group, according to the US Census Bureau. Columbus Day is the only day on which the nation recognizes the heritage of an estimated 26 million Italian Americans.

CONCLUSION

After review of academic research, extensive engagement of stakeholder communities from across Los Angeles, and conducting numerous workshops and discussion sessions, the City HRC recommends two options, with subsequent implementing instructions, for consideration and selection by Council.

Option #1

ADOPT Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City holiday, to be recognized and celebrated on the second Monday of October, as the replacement to Columbus Day in the City of Los Angeles.

- A] REQUEST the City Attorney report with a draft ordinance and recommendations to effectuate the intent of this action on all City rules, procedures, and regulations, as to form and legality; and
- B] REQUEST the Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, with assistance from the Department of Cultural Affairs, to report on how the City recognizes and celebrates the heritage of various cultures from around the world that represent the great diversity across Los Angeles.

Option #2

RECEIVE and FILE the report.

¹⁶ “This is why we still have Columbus Day.” By Christine Mai-Duc, op. cit.

Prepared by:


FRANCISCO ORTEGA
Human Relations Advocate

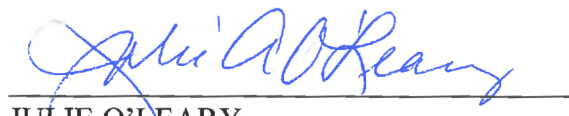
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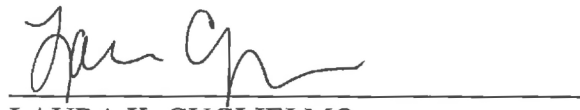
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CITY OF LOS ANGELES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Council request the Los Angeles Human Relations to report on the historical importance and cultural impact of establishing Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City holiday.

This survey is one tool being used to gather relevant data for report being prepared in response to a City Council motion request.

Indigenous People

1. How do you define Indigenous

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Do you self identify as Indigenous

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

3. Do you support the creation of Indigenous People's Day for the City of Los Angeles?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. What would the creation of an Indigenous People's Day mean to you?

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. If you support the creation of an Indigenous People's Day, should it be a holiday?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Indigenous People's Day Survey (Responses)

	A	B	C	D
1	How do you define Indigenous	Do you self identify as Indigenous	Do you support the creation of Indigenous People's Day for the City of Los Angeles?	What would the creation of an Indigenous People's Day mean to you?
2	original people of country	No	Yes	reconciliation
3	Native people	No	Yes	Correct history
4		No	Yes	
5		Yes	Yes	
6	there first	No	Yes	Righting the wrong
7	People of original origin	No	Yes	
8		No	No	
9	Don't	No	Yes	
10		No	Yes	
11		Yes	Yes	Reconciliation
12	Native people	Yes	No	
13		No	Yes	Resolution
14		No	Yes	
15		No	Yes	
16		No	Yes	
17		No	Yes	
18		No	Yes	in America.
19	DECENT	No	Yes	THE CULTURE,
20		Yes	Yes	American Indian
21		No	Yes	
22		Yes	Yes	
23	land	No	Yes	Finally coming to the truth
24	Native people of the world	No	Yes	Respect for indigenous
25	Native	No	No	
26		No	Yes	
27	First Nation	Yes	Yes	still part of the fabric of
28		No	Yes	
29		No	No	
30		No	Yes	
31		No	Yes	
32		No	Yes	Reconciliation
33	Native American Indian	No	Yes	Rectifying history
34	Tribal peoples	No	Yes	the rest of the racist
35	Native American Indian	No	Yes	
36		Yes	Yes	acknowledging the reality
37		Yes	Yes	Stop the whitewashing
38		Yes	Yes	

Indigenous People's Day Survey (Responses)

	A	B	C	D
78		No	Yes	
79		No	Yes	
80		Yes	Yes	
81	People who are native to their land and have preserved (most of their) cultural traditions.	No	Yes	A day to honor and respect those individuals and people that came before us and those that still exist.
82		No	Yes	It wouldn't be relevant to me personally, but I think it would be great to celebrate Indigenous People and their culture/heritage.
83		No	Yes	
84		No	Yes	
85	Native people	No	Yes	
86		No	Yes	
87		No	Yes	
88		No	Yes	
89		No	Yes	
90		No	Yes	
91	Native peoples	No	Yes	Celebrating those who came before
92		No	Yes	
93		No	Yes	
94		Yes	Yes	
95		No	No	
96		Yes	Yes	
97	Original people of the land	Yes	Yes	Recognition that no "discovery" was needed.
98		No	Yes	
99		No	No	
100		No	Yes	
101		No	Yes	
102		No	Yes	
103		No	No	
104		No	Yes	
105		No	No	
106	First Nation	No	Yes	Correcting history

Indigenous People's Day Survey (Responses)

	E	F	G	H
1	If you support the creation of an Indigenous People's Day, should it be a holiday?	Please share your thoughts on the significance of creating an Indigenous People's Day.	What does Columbus Day mean to you?	Do you associate Columbus Day with the celebrating of Italian Heritage?
2	Yes	correcting history	nothing but a holiday	No
3	Yes		nothing	No
4	Yes			No
5	Yes			No
6	Yes			No
7	No			No
8	No		hope	Yes
9	Yes			Yes
10	Yes			No
11	Yes			No
12	No	American Day		No
13	Yes		discovery	No
14	Yes			No
15	Yes	happens that would okay	not much	No
16	Yes		it represents me	Yes
17	Yes			No
18	Yes	group of people and	not much.	No
19	Yes	OUR PERSPECTIVES		No
20	Yes	The truth	responsible for horrible	No
21	Yes			No
22	Yes			No
23	Yes		reminder of white power	No
24	Yes		American	Yes
25	No			Yes
26	Yes			No
27	Yes	See above	enslavement	No
28	Yes			No
29	No			No
30	Yes			No
31	No			No
32	Yes			Yes
33	Yes		slavery	No
34	Yes		wrapping repression as	No
35	Yes			Yes
36	Yes			No
37	Yes		enslaved peoples distruction	No
38	Yes			No

Indigenous People's Day Survey (Responses)

	E	F	G	H
78	Yes			Yes
79	Yes			No
80	Yes			Yes
81	No	We need to create a day to honor those Indigenous people that came before us and still exist even after all the persecution and challenges the faced to preserve their culture and traditions. I rather honor Indigenous People's Day rather than Christopher Columbus Day (a man that discovered land and people that already existed before him).	Nothing. It makes me sad that we currently honor one man, when we can honor so many people and culture with Indigenous People's Day.	No
82	No		I'm not even sure what is honestly, I'm Canadian and we don't celebrate it	No
83	Yes			No
84	Yes			No
85	Yes			No
86	Yes			Yes
87	Yes			No
88	Yes			Yes
89	Yes			No
90	Yes			No
91	Yes	Reminds people that there was no discovery but migration	misrepresentation of history	No
92	Yes			No
93	Yes			No
94	Yes			No
95	No		USA	Yes
96	Yes			No
97	Yes	Correcting history and moving towards an honest future	lies. insulting to the people Native American Indian	No
98	Yes			No
99	No			Yes
100	Yes			Yes
101	Yes			No
102	Yes			No
103	No			No
104	Yes			Yes
105	Yes			No
106	Yes		nothing	No

Indigenous People's Day Survey (Responses)

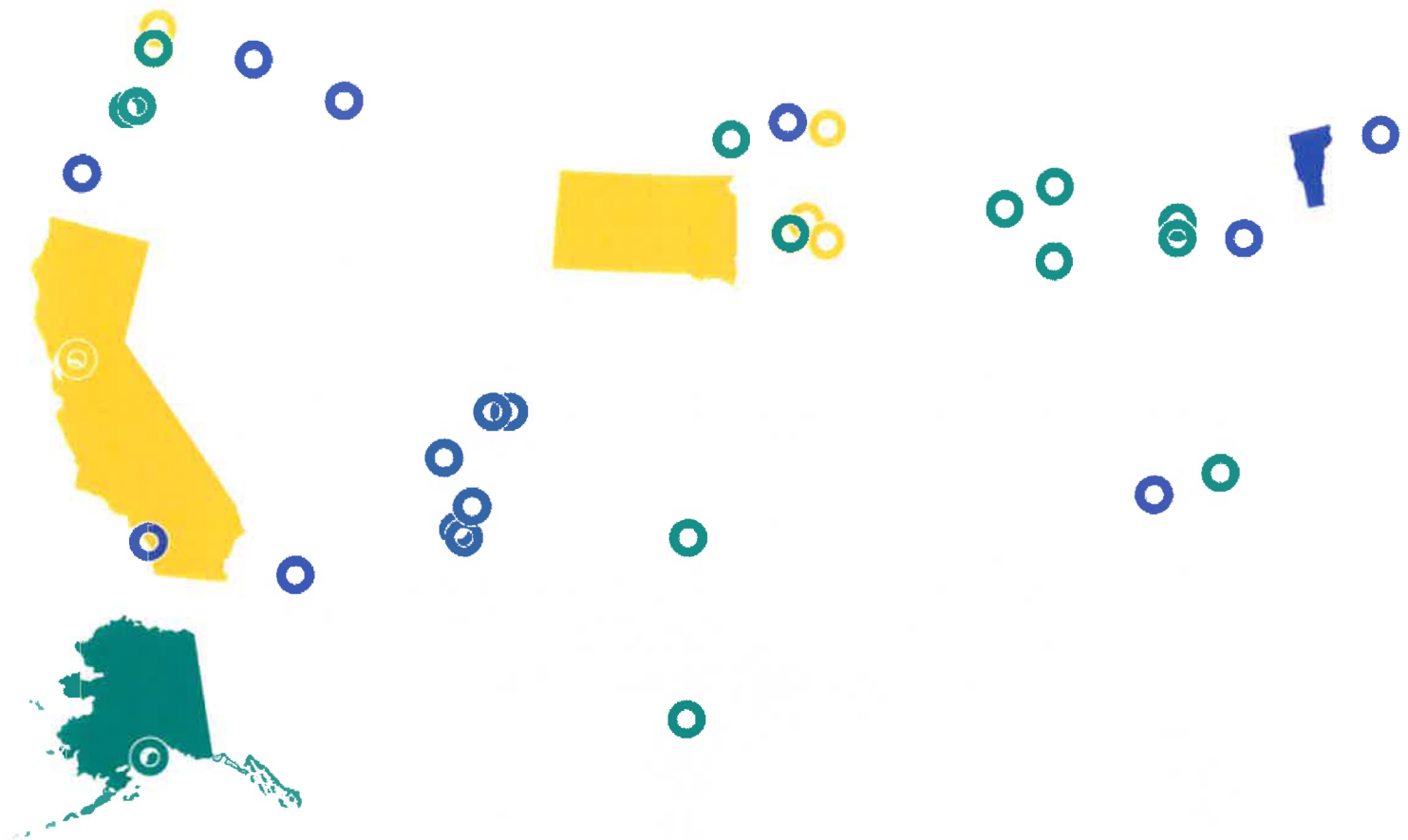
	I	J	K
1	Should Indigenous People's Day replace Columbus Day?	Please share your thoughts on the above question...	Additional thoughts:
2	Yes	don't feel that Columbus represents the America of	I think it is long overdue that LA has an Indigenous
3	Yes		
4	Yes		
5	Yes		Finally
6	Yes		
7	No		
8	No	Forgetting what Italians	already have a month
9	No		
10	No		
11	No		Can't we have both
12	No		
13	No	Should have both	
14	Yes		
15	No		
16	No	be on a different day	
17	Yes		
18	No	like a person we should	
19	Yes		
20	Yes	their accomplishments	
21	Yes		
22	Yes		
23	Yes		
24	No	day that would celebrateb	
25	No		
26	Yes	Columbus Day to	
27	Yes	did horrendous things for	
28	No		
29	No		
30	No		
31	No		
32	No	Create a new holiday	
33	Yes	happened a long time ago	
34	Yes		
35	No	Columbus to discovery	
36	Yes		
37	Yes	Italian Americans are great contributors to America they should honor real hero	
38	No		

Indigenous People's Day Survey (Responses)

	I	J	K
78	No		
79	No		
80	No		
81	Yes	I strongly agree that Indigenous People's Day should replace Columbus Day, as with Indigenous People's Day can honor and show respect to so many individuals and people's for their culture and traditions, rather than just honoring one man.	Thank you so much for considering replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day.
82	No		
83	Yes	RECONCILIATION	
84	Yes		
85	Yes		
86	No		
87	Yes		
88	Yes		
89	Yes		
90	Yes		
91	Yes		
92	Yes		
93	Yes		
94	Yes		
95	No		Stop being PC
96	Yes		
97	Yes	Columbus was a slaver Create a day for Italian Americans	
98	Yes		
99	No		
100	No		
101	Yes		
102	Yes		
103	No		
104	No		
105	Yes		
106	Yes		

CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE:

THE MOVEMENT TO REPLACE COLUMBUS DAY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



PRE - 2015

California (B)
South Dakota (IPD)
Seattle, WA (IPD)
Minneapolis, MN (IPD)
Berkeley, CA (IPD)
Red Wing, MN (IPD)
Grand Rapids, MN (B)

2015

Alaska (IPD)
Multnomah County, OR (IPD)
Sandoval County, NM (B)
Bexar County, TX (IPD)
Sandoval County, NM (IPD)
Lawrence, KS (IPD)
Portland, OR (IPD)
Corvallis, OR (IPD)
St. Paul, MN (IPD)
Anadarko, OK (IPD)
Olympia, WA (IPD)
Alpena, MI (IPD)
Carrboro, NC (IPD)
Traverse City, MI (IPD)
Newstead, NY (B)
Akron, NY (B)
Lewiston, NY (B)
Fargo, ND (IPD)
Ann Arbor, MI (IPD)
Missoula, MT (IPD)

2016

Vermont (IPD)
Phoenix, Arizona (B)
Tompkins County, NY (B)
Denver, CO (IPD)
Boulder, CO (IPD)
Albuquerque, NM (IPD)
Spokane, WA (IPD)
Bemidji, MN (IPD)
Eugene, OR (IPD)
Cambridge, MA (IPD)
Asheville, NC (B)
Belfast, ME (IPD)
San Fernando, CA (B)
Yakima, WA (IPD)
Durango, CO (IPD)
Santa Fe, NM (IPD)

KEY

D = Replaced with Indigenous Peoples Day
B = Celebrates both Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day

States that do not observe Columbus Day as a state holiday:
Alaska, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Michigan,
Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas,
Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Hawaii has a "Discoverers' Day" to celebrate Polynesian explorers,
it still controversial with some indigenous peoples and not a state
holiday



July 18, 2016

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (Tribe): Relationality to Land

This map is a work in progress for the Mapping Indigenous Los Angeles (MILA) project. The information used for this map has been written specifically for MILA to show how culturally significant spaces to the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians have been destroyed to make room for entertainment parks. Please note that photos have been removed due to formatting issues. In addition, all words highlighted in blue are hyperlinks that will connect the reader to a photo. Citations have not been included in this draft.

Please contact Kimia Fatehi at kfatehi@tataviam-nsn.us for questions or comments.

Fernandeño Tataviam Perspectives

This map is reflective of the fluid relationships between the land and the [Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians](#) (Fernandeño Tataviam).

Although ancestors of the Fernandeño Tataviam received and legally held the land, traumatic dispossession due to urban expansion in northern Los Angeles removed them from their geographies, but did not completely destroy their relationships with the land.

This map highlights how culturally and historically significant places to the Fernandeño Tataviam have been disrupted by contemporary places of entertainment use.

Who are the Fernandeño Tataviam people?

The Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (Fernandeño Tataviam) are connected to the lands of northern Los Angeles County. The current body of the tribe is traced to the lineages that predate the establishment of Mission San Fernando, circled [here](#).



Drawing by Larry Ortega.

Tribal Name. *Fernandeño* refers to the natives removed from their homes and forced to register at Mission San Fernando. *Tataviam* is the *Jaminat* (Kitanemuk) language name for the peoples geographically located below Rancho Tejon, which translates to "people facing the sun," since the ancestors were known to live on the south-facing slopes of the mountains to receive warmth from the sun.

History. On September 8, 1797, [Mission San Fernando](#) was established and enslaved ancestors from the villages in present-day Simi, Santa Clarita, San Fernando, Antelope valleys, and parts of the Angeles Forest. At each village existed a single lineage, which may have been part of a larger settlement or region, but was completely autonomous. An individual would not marry within their lineage, and therefore, married exogenously with their neighbors which strengthened trade [networks](#) and created complex multi-lingual villages, connected through social relationships and kinship.

Three Lineages. Once the mission was dismantled in Alta California's Mexican period, the majority of Fernandean peoples did not live in San Fernando, but instead, moved back to the original locations of their lineages, to the lands familiar to them. Three lineages that originated in northern Los Angeles County maintained close social networks for over 200 years. Today, these three lineages, the Ortega, Garcia, and Ortiz, make-up the Fernandean Tataviam tribe. Each lineage has their own spokesperson(s) or leader(s).

Placenames. There are many important Takic language suffixes to help guide you through this Fernandean Tataviam map. To refer to a person from a lineage, we use *-vit*, *-bit*, *-pet*, or *-bet*, while *-am* refers to many people associated with the lineage and changes *-vit* to *-vitam*. To extend this concept to an entire region, we use *-veat* to refer to the country of a peoples. Lastly, *-nga* is a locative suffix, which translates to "place of."

For example, if *Kavwé*, which means the hills, is our root word, then *Kavwénga* means the place of the hills and refers to the place or village (now known as Cahuenga). *Kavwévít* refers to a person from the lineage there, *Kavwévítam* refers to the people of Cahuenga, and *Kavwéveat* refers to the country, or region, of the Cahuenga peoples.

Chaguayanga & Tochonanga

Six Flags Magic Mountain

On August 8, 1769, Juan Crespi described visiting *Tochonanga* as he descended into the Santa Clara River drainage from the San Fernando Valley:

"the descent being made on foot because of the steepness. Once down we entered a small valley in which there was a village...We enjoyed their good will and their presents, which consisted of some baskets of pinole, made of sage and other kinds of grasses, and at the side of these baskets they had others for us to drink from. They gave us also nuts and acorns, and were presented with beads in return..."

Tochonanga rests southeast of old Newhall, near the headwaters of the Santa Clara River. The village is pronounced as "tots-ó-nán-ga." The Fernandean Tataviam's pre-Mission San Fernando lineages are connected to *Tochonanga*'s hilly topography and countless oak trees.

Today, high-pitched screams can be heard at the site of *Chaguayanga*, as rollercoasters shake the bodies of adventure-seekers. The \$20 million development, now a 262-acre amusement park called Six Flags Magic Mountain, opened on May 29, 1971 and is located near the dried Santa Clara River creek bed and suffocates parts of the village and the reburial site, which was disturbed during 1968 construction 1.9 miles away from the amusement park.

Descendants of *Tochonabit* and *Chaguayabit* continue to gather medicine from these lands. They hold ceremonies and family gatherings at the site that has been physically and visually disturbed by the settlers, but not completely destroyed.

Kavwénga

Universal Studios

The village at present-day Cahuenga is known as *Kavwénga*, the place of the hills. The Mission records show complex social, ceremonial, trading, and marriage ties between the *Kavwévitam* (Cahuenga people) and *Siutcavitam* (Encino peoples).

On November 2, 1814, José Miguel Triunfo was born into his mother's lineage at Cahuenga. His leadership title *Triunfo* determined his path as leader at Rancho Cahuenga, where the hilly topography and natural water supply would become highly profitable lands for settlers.

Jose Miguel Triunfo had been working for Mission San Fernando at Rancho Cahuenga and felt that his work was deserving of land for his people. In 1843, at the age of 29 and father to three children, he petitioned for a land grant from Governor Manuel Micheltorena for his services to the Mission. This land grant was located within the Rancho Providencia grant, which would be owned by Vicente de la Osa, the Los Angeles Councilman that dispossessed the peoples from Encino from their land.

Meanwhile, Governor Micheltorena's dedication to secularize Mission San Fernando and distribute the Mission's assets to natives upset the Californios, who wanted the lands for themselves. Hatred and greed fueled the Californios, who rebelled against the governor and forced his removal from Alta California.

Triunfo feared that the angry Californios would compromise his 388 acres at Rancho Cahuenga, since the main battleground for the rebellion was at [Cahuenga Pass](#). He traded his lands and the vital water supply at Cahuenga for 6,661 acres at Rancho Tujunga in 1845 from Governor Pio Pico.

TUJÚNGA. [Rancho Tujunga](#) is named after the village there, *Tujúnga*, the place of the old woman rock. Unfortunately, this rock fell victim to expansion projects and became desecrated during the development of the present-day 210 highway.

By 1850, Triunfo sold the large property at Rancho Tujunga to Francisco Lopez, David W. Alexander, and Francis Mellus. At age 36, he moved to Rancho Encino to live with the Ortega lineage led by 20-year-old Maria Rita Alipaz, which further strengthened ties between Cahuenga and Encino.

SIKWANGA. Around 1851, Samuel, whose lineage comes from *Chaguayanga*, turned 55 years old, and had no known surviving children. At the same time Triunfo received Rancho Cahuenga, Samuel received Rancho Sikwanga, which was located northwest of San Fernando Mission. On March 1, 1851, Samuel decided to gift his rancho to

Triunfo's two sons Alifonso and Atonio, who probably held strong relationships with Samuel. Triunfo's health had started to become seriously affected by the death of a son two years prior, which led to his death. The sons moved to Sikwanga with their mother, Rafaela, where they planted orchards to grow pears, oranges, and pomegranates. As her sons became older, Rafaela sold parts of Rancho Sikwanga to interested parties, including Geronimo Lopez who built the famous Lopez Station stagecoach stop in the 1860s.

Today, the original rancho granted to Triunfo in 1843 is located in Burbank, in close proximity to Campo de Cahuenga and Cahuenga Pass. Universal Studios and its fictional backdrops smother the traumatic and unforgotten histories and relationships to the land. Although Triunfo gave up the lands due to historical circumstances, the tribe continues to host events that strengthen the relationship between the tribe and the ex-rancho. The tribe's non-profit, [Pukúu Cultural Community Services](#), hosts an annual gala that has taken place near the rancho. Today, Jose Miguel Triunfo daughter, Rosaria Arriola, and her [descendants](#) make up the tribe's Ortiz lineage.

Suitcanga

Los Encinos State Historic Park

She was ten years old watching her grandfather, **Tiburcio Cayo**, care take the land at Rancho Encino, like the olden days. Her coal black hair was made up in the early 19th century style and white stockings visible beneath her thick, wool dress that was high on her neck. She preferred to be barefoot, but her mother advised her that looking different might result in attention from the Spanish and Mexican settlers.

Her name is **Maria Rita Alipaz**, born May 24th, 1830 to mother **Paula Cayo**, of *Tapuu* (Tapo Canyon) and *Siutcabit* (Encino), and father **Francisco Papabubaba**, of *Chaguayabit* (Rancho San Franciscquito) and *Tochonabit* (Newhall). Oftentimes, while recording indigenous leadership titles, the Spaniards would record the closest words they heard. Therefore, Alipaz is actually a translation of *Alalxiyepsh*, the Chumash term for a good healer who uses herbs. Her father Papabubaba, a participant in the Chumash Swordfish Ceremony, made sure that his oldest surviving daughter Rita Alipaz would continue the healing ways that were taught to him and groomed her for leadership.

Her grandfather, Tiburcio Cayo, was raising cattle at Rancho Encino, on the lands of his wife's lineage. The title *cayo* is an honorific expression and was passed to his daughter Paula, the mother of Maria Rita Alipaz. Having assumed leadership roles at Encino and seen how ancient lands could quickly be removed from his peoples, Tiburcio fought to attain the rancho in his name. He negotiated for land ownership in the 1840s and received it from Mission San Fernando, but his instincts reminded him that this would not suffice. He felt that receiving a land grant from the Mexican governor, rather than the Church, would hold more legitimacy. In 1843, he pleaded to have *Siutcanga* placed in his name by Manuel Micheltorena, the Mexican governor. A year later, in the late spring of 1844,

Tiburcio passed away and left the land to his two daughters' husbands Roque and Francisco Papabubaba, and to Mission Indian Roman.

Meanwhile, the governor changed from Micheltorena to Pio Pico, which made the caretakers of *Siutcanga* fearful of their land grant's legitimacy. Francisco Papabubaba followed the lead of his late father-in-law and renegotiated for a new land grant in 1845 with Roque and Roman, a year after Tiburcio's passing. As result, ownership of the 4,460 acres was divided among the three petitioners and their wives. Meanwhile, Maria Rita Alipaz married Benigno, who was second-cousin to tribal captain Rogerio Rocha of Tujunga.

Two years after legally receiving the land at Encino, Francisco passed away and left his daughter Maria Rita Alipaz with his ownership. Her sister Agueda's husband Roman, who petitioned with Francisco in 1845, had left for the gold mines, where he is presumed to have been killed. Therefore, Agueda received his share, Maria Rita Alipaz had her late father's share, and Roman held the last share. Maria, now 17 years old, saw that a Spaniard named Vicente de la Osa, owned the neighboring Rancho Providencia land grant, and felt he was moving closer to her family's area.

Over the course of 10 years, Maria's intuition became a reality. She was unfamiliar with the changing laws of the new American period, and held onto the ownership of Encino until external forces removed her title. Through sharp dealings, Vicente de la Osa eventually removed title of Encino from Maria Rita Alipaz and the *suitcabit* lineage in 1857 and built an adobe near the springs.

Homeless on her own land, Maria and her newborn son Antonio Maria Ortega had no other choice but to return to the Mission, so her husband Benigno could find work. Before reaching the age of 40, Maria Rita Alipaz passed in San Fernando Valley's most difficult decade. The smallpox epidemic and drought ended the lives of many natives, and oftentimes, left them with no burial markers. Her orphaned son, Antonio Maria Ortega, worked at the ex-Mission San Fernando Rancho until the well-known Lopez family adopted him.

Today: Today, Antonio's descendants make up the tribe's Ortega lineage. Meanwhile, Vicente de la Osa's adobe can still be seen on the Los Encinos State Historic Park property at the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. Inside the adobe are multiple panels on the settling families that took ownership of the land, but only a few dedicated to Maria and her family. Although the property is a California State Historic Park, Maria's descendants continue to hold ceremonies and gatherings on the land.

Mapipinga

Vasquez Rocks

Tipped towards the northeast, the upturned sandstone strata point at a 45° angle as result of ancient geological activity associated with the San Andreas Fault. Perhaps it is this feature that has attracted the [Los Angeles film industry](#) for over one hundred years to the sandstone layered rocks.

In addition to being used as fictional film dwellings, the site holds a long history of settler occupation, ranging from the well-known bandit Tiburcio Vasquez to artist Claude Ellis, whose 1930s portraits of "Indian faces" are still visible on the rocks.

Today, the Fernandeno Tataviam tribe believes that the settlement at present-day Vasquez Rocks is *Mapipinga*. Fernandeno Tataviam ancestors sustained their peoples by a year round water source supplied by the springs at *Mapipinga*. They received most of their energy from [yucca](#), which is believed to have been the most reliable food source here, but also ate primary vegetable foods such as acorns, sage seeds, [juniper](#) berries and berries of islay (*Prunus ilicifolia*). Clearly defined boundaries did not necessarily exist at this settlement, since the peoples interacted with neighboring communities and shared their resources. This area involved intense social ties and relationships, extensive economic relations, and trade.

Although 932 acres of the area are now part of Los Angeles County Parks, the tribe maintains their relationship with the land by organizing cultural hikes that inform younger generations on how edible and medicinal plants, and rock shelters, continue to be utilized for ceremonial organization. In addition, the tribe reclaimed their relationship to the space by aiding in the creation of the interpretative center, which focuses on the Fernandeno Tataviam, both past and present.

Due to disrespect and vandalism, many of the Tataviam ancestors' visual markers and pictographs have been off-limits to the general public since 1996.

Patzkunga

Rudy Ortega Sr. Park

In 1928, the California Indian Judgment Roll asked the tribe's Garcia lineage who the previous spokesperson of her lineage was. They wrote, "Captain Rogerio Rocha."

Born at Mission San Fernando on March 30, 1824, Rocha fell into leadership roles through his father Jerman, who was also a leader of the San Fernando peoples. At the age of 18, he and his father helped organize the election of Pedro Joaquin to represent their people in future land case disputes. A year later, Rogerio and Jerman, along with 39 other Mission San Fernando Indians, petitioned for land to caretake as result of their labor to the Mission. He was awarded Rancho Cienega, known as *Patzkunga*, the place of the water, near Lopez Canyon, CA. Captain Rocha shared the natural springs on his property with those of his lineage and strove for the betterment of his community and lineage, *Tujubit* of Tujunga.

His land held a modest adobe house and multiple *ki'j* structures surrounded by his favorite fruit trees. As Anglos began moving onto the lands, he made sure to follow the laws and regulations of their foreign government. He struggled to pay taxes, but did so because he understood that the laws were meant to protect him and ensure that settlers would not disturb his people.

As the California Boom increased the value of water, lands occupied by the Fernandinos began to become increasingly settled by real estate seekers. Once the mission system was dismantled, the lands of ex-Mission San Fernando were held by the Eulogio de Celis family. These lands overlapped with Rogerio Rocha's property

Ex-Senator Charles Maclay and Benjamin K. Porter saw the sacred San Fernando Valley as highly valuable for their real estate enterprise. However, the Fernandino natives were protected from settlers under Mexican titles, and were not to be disturbed if living peacefully on the land.

The De Celis family objected to disturbing Rogerio Rocha, but their lawyer aided in skillfully removing his protection from the conveyance. As expected, immediately after purchasing the property, Maclay and Porter brought suit to evict elder Rocha and won.

"Though forced to do this disagreeable duty, we regarded it as a hard and cruel thing to take these old people from their home and throw them into the street, unprotected, in the midst of the winter season." (William E. Hammel, and Martin Aguirre, the two deputy sheriffs who executed the eviction)

The sheriffs disposed of Rogerio, his wife, and three women during rainy season in Lopez Canyon, where their bodies were dumped. Rogerio received no compensation from Maclay, Porter, or the U.S. government, and instead, lost his wife to pneumonia from the eviction, and died shortly after her.

In 2009, the Fernandino Tataviam collaborated with the City of San Fernando to honor the history of the land. Today, an informative timeline, symbols that represent the history of San Fernando, and indigenous plants are at a park located on the corner of Fourth St. and Hubbard, in San Fernando. After the passing of the tribe's president, Rudy Ortega Sr., the City of San Fernando renamed the park to Rudy Ortega Sr. Park. It sits on an acre

of *Patzkunga*, the property of captain Rogerio Rocha, and hosts the majority of tribal activities, gatherings, and meetings.

Coyanga

Rancho Camulos Museum

The main settlement, *Wa'ánga*, place of the juniper berries, was a three or more family settlement believed to be the Takic language root name for present-day Camulos. Closer to the Santa Clara riverbed is the village of Coyanga. The village was held by Tataviam's Takic speaking ancestors and shared with Ventureño Chumash neighbors, with whom they shared the space. [Juan José Fustero](#), a well-known Tataviam ancestor whose grandparents spoke the Tataviam language, and his family are known as the original occupants of Camulos.

The [village](#) is currently utilized by the [Rancho Camulos Museum](#), a National Historic Landmark situated within the 1800- acre working ranch in Piru, California. The tribe is currently re-establishing a tribal presence, as plans are underway for a Ki'j, or traditional dwelling place.

In close proximity to this village is a Tataviam-utilized ceremonial rock shelter that yielded a handful of cultural deposits in the early 20th century during its disturbance by settlers.

The shelter contained tule baskets, headdresses, whistles and flutes, and other regalia. These sacred objects were not forgotten by the descendants of their creators, but were stripped from their geographies and relocated to the Peabody Museum of American Ethnology at Harvard University. Unfortunately, some of these items are now misplaced due to continuous trade among Museums.

Recently, the ceremonial shelter was at risk of destruction during an expansion project. The tribe mitigated development plans and ensured that their ancient space would not be disturbed. Today, the tribe continues to utilize the space and works with the current owners to control access.

South Central Neighborhood Council

Jose Reyes
President

Johnny Andrade
Vice President

Martha Sanchez
Secretary

Clemente Franco
Treasurer

Ron Gochez
Parliamentarian

City Of Los Angeles



Location:
All Peoples Community Center
822 East 20th Street Los Angeles, CA 90011

South Central Neighborhood Council

Cliff Smith
Board Member

John Parker
Board Member

Azusena Favela
Board Member

David Solis
Board Member

Regular Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, October 20th, 2015 at 6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call** The meeting was called to order by President Reyes at 6:53 PM. Roll call: Reyes, Sanchez, Franco, Gochez, Smith, Parker present, quorum was established.
- II. **General Public Comments** — Mike Castillo from CD9 office, invites people to participate from “El Dia de los Muertos Festival” at the Sports Arena. He also invites members to participate from “Foro Comunitario de immigration” at Fred Roberts Park. The hearing about Street Vendors will be next week. The CD9 office has identified two new locations to allocate new pocket parks, Trinity Park will have a soccer field and other upgrades, trash cans will be added to major corridors, more trees will be planted around the community as well. A group of residents request to start a Neighborhood Watch club in conjunction with LAPD more meeting will be hold for this effort in the future probably late November or December 2015.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from Sept 30th Special meeting read in silence. Smith moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Franco, all in favor. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- IV. **Budget and Financial Report** – We have no budget report for this meeting. The board received a quick update on current financial status, of the SCNC, expenditures on September. There are still some standing expenses that will show on next month.
- V. **Strategic Plan Package**—The Strategic Plan is “work in progress” no updates to be announced by now.
- VI. **REEF Environmental Impact Report EIR**— Public comments must be submitted to the city by November 2nd. The report was released on September; there are about 800 pages plus appendixes, only in English. Smith Moves to authorize the committee to submit a statement in behalf of the SCNC to the city base on meetings and comments collected on previous meetings with community members and to request a meeting with Councilmember Price, seconded by Sanchez. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.
- VII. **REEF EIR**—The board discussed on requesting the city to extend the public comments period on the REEF Environmental Impact Report Sanchez moves to request an extension seconded by Smith, All in favor, motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. **Community Forum about Gentrification**—Members received an update of the Gentrification Community Forum. The date will be pushed to next Wednesday since we couldn't secure a location, presenters will be confirmed soon.
- IX. **Community Forum about Selecting a new LAUSD Superintendent**—The board will look to organize a community forum to engage parents of LAUSD students, teachers and community members in the selection of a new LAUSD Superintendent. Smith moves to support the proposal of organizing the community forum,

seconded by Parker. Franco made a friendly amendment to allocate up to \$500 dls for fliers and refreshments and other expenses for the forum, accepted by Smith. All in favor. Members voted as follows:

Jose Reyes,	Yes	Clemente Franco	Yes	John Parker	Yes
Johnny Andrade	Absent	Ron Gochez	Absent	Azusena Favela	Absent
Martha Sanchez	Yes	Cliff Smith	Yes	David Solis	Absent

- X. Trinity Block Party Event**—Sanchez request the board to discuss the possibility to continue supporting and organizing the annual Trinity Block Party outreach event. Sanchez, 5 min. Smith moves to support the event and to allocating up to \$800 to cover the expenses of street closure, seconded by Parker. All in favor. Members voted as follows:

Jose Reyes,	Yes	Clemente Franco	Yes	John Parker	Yes
Johnny Andrade	Absent	Ron Gochez	Absent	Azusena Favela	Absent
Martha Sanchez	Yes	Cliff Smith	Yes	David Solis	Absent

- XI. Indigenous People's Day**—Board member Smith proposes the board to pass a resolution to call and mobilize other Neighborhood Councils and Community Organizations to join us in calling the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor of L.A to proclaim the second Monday of October as "Indigenous Peoples' Day" Seconded by Parker, All in favor. Motion has been carried.

XII. Public Comments from Council members regarding:

- I. Parker proposes the NC to involve and encourage youth from our area to join KPFFK Journalism Internship Program. This will be an agenda item for future meeting.
- II. Reyes informs members that Guatemala will be holding elections next Sunday

November 21st next meeting!

Adjournment Smith moves, seconded by Parker at 7:45PM

Native American Heritage Day

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Native American Heritage Day is a civil holiday observed on the day after Thanksgiving in the United States.

National legislative history

President George W. Bush signed into law legislation introduced by Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto), to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day. The Native American Heritage Day Bill^[1] was supported by the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and 184 federally recognized tribes, and designates Friday, November 28, 2008, as a day to pay tribute to Native Americans for their many contributions to the United States.

The Native American Heritage Day Bill encourages Americans of all backgrounds to observe Friday, November 28, 2008, as Native American Heritage Day, through appropriate ceremonies and activities. It also encourages public elementary and secondary schools to enhance student understanding of Native Americans by providing classroom instructions focusing on their history, achievements, and contributions.

The House of Representatives originally passed H.J. Res. 62 on November 13, 2007. The bill was passed with technical adjustments by unanimous consent in the United States Senate on September 22, 2008. Then, on September 26, 2008, the House of Representatives unanimously voted to pass the legislation again, this time including the adjustments from the Senate. The legislation was signed into public law by the President on October 8, 2008.

Some individual states have also taken legislative action to recognize this day. For example, Maryland established this day in 2008 under the name American Indian Heritage Day.^[2]

References

1. House Joint Resolution 62 (<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=hj110-62>), Native American Heritage Day Act of 2008.
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Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Native_American_Heritage_Day&oldid=687820727"

Categories: Autumn holidays | Public holidays in the United States | Indigenous peoples days

Native American Heritage Day	
Observed by	United States of America
Type	Historical
Significance	A day in honor of Native Americans
Date	Day after U.S. Thanksgiving
2015 date	November 27
2016 date	November 25
2017 date	November 24
2018 date	November 23
Frequency	annual

PRO-COLUMBUS DAY

POINTS OF REASON

GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

Presented by:
Ann Potenza, President
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Los Angeles, CA
April 5, 2016

COLUMBUS DAY, celebrated the second Monday of October, should stay intact as a recognized holiday for the following reasons:

- 1) Columbus' journey in 1492 created the start of the COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE, the largest exchange of animals, plants, culture, technology and ideas between the two Worlds.**

The **Columbian Exchange** or **Grand Exchange** was the widespread transfer of animals, plants, culture, human populations, technology, and ideas between the American and Afro-Eurasian hemispheres in the 15th and 16th centuries, related to European colonization and trade after Christopher Columbus' 1492 voyage.

The contact between the two areas circulated a wide variety of new crops and livestock, which supported increases in population in both hemispheres, although diseases initially caused precipitous declines in the numbers of indigenous peoples of the Americas. Traders returned to Europe with maize, potatoes, and tomatoes, which became very important crops in Europe by the 18th century. Similarly, Europeans introduced manioc and peanut to tropical Asia and West Africa, where they flourished in soils that otherwise would not produce large yields.

Before the Columbian Exchange, there were no oranges in Florida, no bananas in Ecuador, no paprika in Hungary, no potatoes in Ireland, no coffee in Colombia, no pineapples in Hawaii, no rubber trees in Africa, no chili peppers in Thailand, no tomatoes in Italy, and no chocolate in Switzerland.

One of the first European exports to the Americas, the horse, changed the lives of many Native American tribes in the mountains. They shifted to a nomadic lifestyle, as opposed to agriculture, based on hunting bison on horseback and moved down to the Great Plains. The existing Plains tribes extended their territories with horses, and the animals were considered so valuable that horse herds became a measure of wealth. Horses, donkeys, mules, pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, large dogs, cats and bees were rapidly adopted by native peoples for transport, food, and other uses.

Post-Columbian transfers of native organisms with close ties to humans

Type of organism	Old World to New World	New World to Old World
Domesticated animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cat (domestic – wild species already present) • chicken • cow • donkey • ferret • goat (the goats of the Old World, genus <i>Capra</i>, are different from the mountain goat of the New World, genus <i>Oreamnos</i>) • goose (domestic – wild species already present) • honey bee (European honey bee – other wild and domesticated species already present) • horse • rabbit (domestic) • pig • rats • rock pigeon • sheep (domestic) • silkworm • water buffalo • guineafowl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alpaca • American mink (fur farming) • guinea pig • llama • Muscovy duck • turkey
Domesticated plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ackee • almond • apple • apricot • artichoke • asparagus • banana (including plantains) • barley • basil • beet • bilberry (not to be confused with blueberry) • bitter melon • black pepper • <i>Brassica oleracea</i>-derived vegetables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kale and collard greens • broccoli • cabbage • brussels sprouts • cauliflower • cantaloupe • carambola • cardamom • carrot • celery • chickpea • cinnamon • clove • coffee • citrus (orange, lemon, etc.) • coriander (also known as <i>cilantro</i>) • cucumber • cumin • date palm • eggplant • fennel • fig 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achira (<i>Canna indica</i>) • agave • allspice • amaranth (as grain) • arrowroot or <i>Maranta arundinacea</i> • avocado • common beans (pinto, lima, kidney, etc.) • black raspberry • bell pepper • blueberry (not to be confused with bilberry, also called blueberry) • canistel • cashew • chia • chicle • chirimoya • chili peppers • cranberries (large cranberry, or bearberry species) • coca • cocoa • cotton (long-staple species) • culantro • custard apple • grape (fox grape and other species) • guava (common) • huckleberry • Jerusalem artichoke • jicama • leren (<i>Calathea allouia</i>) • maize (corn) • manioc (cassava, tapioca, yuca) • papaya • passionfruit • peanut • pecan • pineapple • pitaya (dragon fruit)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flax • garlic • ginger • grape (<i>Vitis vinifera</i>, the common wine grape) • hazelnut • hemp (including cannabis) • kola nut • leek • lettuce • lentil • mango • millet • mustard plant • nutmeg • oats • okra • oil palm • olive • onion • opium • oregano • peach • pea • pear • pistachio • pomegranate • radish • rhubarb • rice • rye • sesame • sorghum • soybean • spinach • sugarcane and sugar beets • taro • tea • timothy-grass • turmeric • turnip • wheat • walnut (English) • watermelon • yam (sometimes misnamed "sweet potato") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potato • prickly pear (<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>) • pumpkin • quinoa • rubber • sapodilla • soursop • squash • stevia • strawberry (commercial varieties) • sugar-apple • sunflower • sweet potato • tobacco • tomato • turkey berry • vanilla • wild rice (Indian rice, not directly related to Asian rice) • yerba maté • yucca • zucchini (courgette)
Infectious diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bubonic plague • chicken pox • cholera • common cold • diphtheria • influenza • leprosy • malaria • measles • scarlet fever • smallpox • typhoid • typhus • whooping cough • yellow fever • yaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bejel • Chagas disease • pinta • syphilis

2) Columbus' journey was the BIRTH OF IMMIGRATION, which brought ALL immigrants, including Italian Americans to the New World.

America is a nation of immigrants. Throughout its history, the United States of America has been a beacon of freedom and tolerance for all people. American society is enriched by the unique cultural influences and traditions that immigrants bring to this land. Without recognizing the importance of these diverse perspectives, an integral part of America's heritage is overlooked. Indeed, during many of the most prolific moments in America, the contributions of immigrants altered the course of our nation's history.

Columbus' success is a testament to the great potential of immigrants. Columbus Day could – and probably should – be the day on which the nation pauses to reflect on the contributions made to our combined successes by people who were born somewhere else. There are certainly many worthy of honor who added much to the nation's economic, cultural, scientific, political, diplomatic, artistic and commercial successes over the years. Immigrants help build this country and make it great.

Most of the people coming to the U.S. today are doing so because their upward advancement is blocked by a religious, economic, geographic, political, linguistic, ethnic or otherwise artificial barrier in their home country cannot be overcome. The only way to escape the cultural and economic poverty in which they are mired is to, literally, escape to the United States. From Columbus forward immigrants have made the United States stronger, richer, healthier, and, most importantly, a better place. To honor them on Columbus Day keeps alive the idea of America as a "shining city on a hill" beckoning to all who seek a better life. As they prosper, we all prosper.

Consider that Columbus Day isn't about Columbus ~ Columbus Day is about 1892, the year President Benjamin Harrison issued the proclamation establishing a day to honor the "400th anniversary of the discovery of America." Before that, Columbus wasn't at the forefront of our national mythology. By the end of the 19th century, the United States was getting a makeover. Unprecedented immigration had transformed the country's look overnight; in the 30 years between 1880 and 1910, 18 million newcomers came to this country. And the immigrants who flooded America's shores were of a different breed -- European, to be sure, but a different kind of European; what in those days were called "Slavs," "Alpines," "Hebrews," "Iberics" or "Mediterranean." They were swarthy, spoke strange languages and worshipped God differently from the Protestant majority.

At the beginning of the 1880s there were about 300,000 Italians in the U.S.; 10 years later, that number had doubled. And by 1910 there were 2 million Italians in the U.S., more than 10% of the nation's foreign-born population. The Italians -- along with Poles and Portuguese among others -- joined a swelling Irish ("Celtic") community to form a new political bloc: the urban Catholic. Willing to take jobs that white Protestants refused, these urban Catholics met prejudice and suspicion. They constituted a "Catholic menace" -- a religious Fifth Column marching to papist orders. Catholics badly needed a hero. Columbus -- discoverer of the New World but born in the Italian port city of Genoa -- was a logical choice. By the time Harrison's "Discovery Day" came along, it sanctioned the many celebrations already in place.

The proclamation had been handed down at the beginning of the Progressive era, at a time of intense immigration. Because that's what it was about: a changing nation and how we use and reinvent the past to address our present needs. In history, only questions, never conventional wisdom or slogans pry open the door to critical thinking.

3) Columbus' VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY represents why "America is Already Great"; he had a DREAM, he PURSUED that dream, he ACCOMPLISHED that dream.

The explorer Christopher Columbus made four trips across the Atlantic Ocean from Spain: in 1492, 1493, 1498 and 1502. He was determined to find a direct water route west from Europe to Asia, but he never did. Instead, he accidentally stumbled upon the Americas. Though he did not really “discover” the New World—millions of people already lived there—his journeys marked the beginning of centuries of trans-Atlantic conquest and colonization.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS: EARLY LIFE

Christopher Columbus, the son of a wool merchant, was born in Genoa in about 1451. When he was still a teenager, he got a job on a merchant ship. He remained at sea until 1470, when French privateers attacked his ship as it sailed north along the Portuguese coast. The boat sank, but the young Columbus floated to shore on a scrap of wood and made his way to Lisbon, where he studied mathematics, astronomy, cartography and navigation. He also began to hatch the plan that would change the world forever.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS: THE FIRST VOYAGE

At the end of the 15th century, it was nearly impossible to reach Asia from Europe by land. The route was long and arduous, and encounters with hostile armies were difficult to avoid. Portuguese explorers solved this problem by taking to the sea: They sailed south along the West African coast and around the Cape of Good Hope. But Columbus had a different idea: Why not sail west across the Atlantic instead of around the massive African continent? The young navigator's logic was sound, but his math was faulty. He argued (incorrectly) that the circumference of the Earth was much smaller than his contemporaries believed it was; accordingly, he believed that the journey by boat from Europe to Asia should be not only possible but comparatively easy. He presented his plan to officials in Portugal and England, but it was not until 1491 that he found a sympathetic audience: the Spanish monarchs Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile. Columbus wanted fame and fortune. Ferdinand and Isabella wanted the same, along with the opportunity to export Catholicism to lands across the globe. (Columbus, a devout Catholic, was equally enthusiastic about this possibility.) Columbus' contract with the Spanish rulers promised that he could keep 10 percent of whatever riches he found, along with a noble title and the governorship of any lands he should encounter. On August 3, 1492, Columbus and his crew set sail from Spain in three ships: the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. On October 12, the ships made landfall—not in Asia, as Columbus assumed, but on one of the Bahamian islands. For months, Columbus sailed from island to island in what we now know as the Caribbean, looking for the “pearls, precious stones, gold, silver, spices, and other objects and merchandise whatsoever” that he had promised to his Spanish patrons, but he did not find much. In March 1493, leaving 40 men behind in a makeshift settlement on Hispaniola (present-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic), he returned to Spain.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS: LEGACY

Christopher Columbus did not “discover” the Americas, nor was he even the first European to visit the “New World.” (Viking explorers had sailed to Greenland and Newfoundland in the 11th century.) However, his journey kicked off centuries of exploration and exploitation on the American continents. The consequences of his explorations were severe for the native populations of the areas he and the conquistadores conquered. Today, Columbus has a mixed legacy—he is remembered as a daring and path-breaking explorer who transformed the New World, yet his actions also unleashed changes that would eventually devastate the native populations he and his fellow explorers encountered.

4) State & Federal Holidays – Rights & Recognition

The U.S. Constitution established America's national government and fundamental laws, and guaranteed certain basic rights for its citizens. It was signed on September 17, 1787, by delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, presided over by George Washington.

The history of federal holidays in the United States dates back to June 28, 1870, when Congress created federal holidays "to correspond with similar laws of States around the District ... and ... in every State of the Union."

The original four holidays were:

- New Years Day
- Independence Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

George Washington's Birthday became a Federal holiday in 1880. In 1888 and 1894, respectively, Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) and Labor Day were created. In 1938, Armistice Day (now Veterans Day) was created to mark the end of World War I. The scope and the name of the holiday was expanded in 1954 to honor Americans who fought in World War II and the Korean conflict. In 1968, the Monday Holiday Act of 1968 shifted several holidays to always fall on a Monday and saw the establishment of Columbus Day. In 1983, the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. became the nation's most recently established holiday.

Native American civil rights are the civil rights of Native Americans in the United States. Because Native Americans are citizens of their tribal nations as well as the United States, and those tribal nations are characterized under U.S. law as "domestic dependent nations", a special relationship exists which creates a particular tension between rights granted via tribal sovereignty and rights that individual Natives retain as U.S. citizens. This status creates tension today, but was far more extreme before Native people were uniformly granted U.S. citizenship in 1924. Assorted laws and policies of the United States government, some tracing to the pre-Revolutionary colonial period, denied basic human rights—particularly in the areas of cultural expression and travel—to indigenous people.

All Native American tribes are under the U.S. government just as other minority groups. However, unlike other minority groups who are immigrants to the United States, Native Americans are indigenous to American land and have therefore sought and gained sovereignty. Native sovereignty is made complex by the fact that the British (in colonial times) and American government also co-exist in the same country. Furthermore, Native American "government" is not government in the western sense of authority and control, but is more like leadership over a community. It is difficult to describe Native American government in a definite manner due to the fact that there are many different Native tribes with different forms of governing.

As of August 2012, there are federally recognized 564 Native American tribes. During the colonial period, Native American sovereignty was upheld by the negotiation of treaties between British proprietor and Native American tribes. Treaties are agreements between two sovereign governments, and, therefore, the treaties made were made under the understanding that the tribes had equal sovereignty to the sovereignty of the colonial governments.

5) The recognition of Native Americans should be held on the 4th Friday of September.

Native American Day is a holiday in the U.S. states of California and South Dakota. It honors Native American cultures and contributions to their respective states and the United States.

In 1968, Governor Ronald Reagan signed a resolution calling for a holiday called American Indian Day, to be held the Fourth Friday in September. In 1998, the California Assembly passed AB 1953, which made Native American Day an official state holiday, observed annually on the fourth Friday in September.

Recognition of Native Americans and European Immigrants should not cancel out the other. One day should celebrate the natives of this country and the other day should celebrate the immigrants that built this country as we know it now.

Humans have interacted over long distances for thousands of years. Philosophy, religion, language, the arts, and other aspects of culture spread and mixed as nations exchanged products and ideas. In both the 15th and 16th centuries, Europeans made important discoveries in their exploration of the oceans, including the start of transatlantic travel to the "New World" of the Americas. Global movement of people, goods, and ideas expanded significantly in the following centuries. Early on in the 19th century, the development of new forms of transportation (such as the steamship and railroads) and telecommunications that "compressed" time and space allowed for increasingly rapid rates of global interchange. In the 20th century, road vehicles, intermodal transport, and airlines made transportation even faster. The advent of electronic communications, most notably mobile phones and the Internet, connected billions of people in new ways by the year 2010.

The following information was retrieved from several resources, the majority gathered from a study done on Christopher Columbus in 2005, undertaken by the Commission for Social Justice, the anti-defamation arm of the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) in response to growing concerns about the celebration of Columbus Day in America. The material has been condensed for distribution purposes, in order to educate and open up a dialogue among those who are interested in this subject matter. ~ Ann Potenza, President of The Federated Italo-Americans of Southern California; 2013.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS: FACT VS. FICTION

For much of its history, the United States considered Columbus a man worthy of admiration. Columbus Day is one of America's oldest patriotic holidays, first celebrated in the 18th century. America has more monuments to Columbus than any other nation in the world. Generations of American school children studied his life and accomplishments. Teachers held him up as an example of a person of character, who overcame strong opposition and great disappointment but never gave up trying to prove what he believed to be true.

Since 1992, however, the reputation of Columbus has suffered at the hands of special interest groups who have used this 15th century Renaissance navigator to further their 21st century political and social agendas. As a result, today Columbus is often depicted as a slave trader, racist, and even "the Hitler of the 15th century." A small but vocal number of historians, journalists, text-book writers and teachers have helped spread these charges despite their questionable foundation in historical fact. They have done so principally by judging a quintessentially Renaissance man and his actions by contemporary values. It bears noting that England did not outlaw slavery in its colonies until 1833; the United States until 1865 and Brazil in 1888. Some nations in the Mid-East, Asia and Africa continue the practice today.

Despite this controversy, Italian Americans continue to hold Columbus in high regard both for his historic achievements and also because Columbus Day is the only day our nation recognizes the heritage of an estimated 16 to 26 million Americans of Italian descent, who are relentlessly stereotyped by the entertainment, news and advertising industries the other 364 days of the year. Increasingly, however, Italian American communities are finding their Columbus Day celebrations marred by demonstrations and their First Amendment rights denied by special interest groups who sometimes turn violent as has been happening in Denver since 2000.

What Columbus Accomplished and Why We Should Celebrate Columbus Day:

1. Columbus Day recognizes the achievements of a great Renaissance explorer. Columbus proved that it was possible to safely cross the Atlantic Ocean. He was the first European to realize the full importance of the Atlantic wind pattern called the prevailing Westerlies, which blew steadily west to east. This convinced him it was possible to sail west with the Trade Winds to the New World and return to Europe with the Westerlies. During his four transatlantic voyages, Columbus chartered the route for what today are the islands of Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, the Lesser Antilles and the coasts of Panama, Honduras and Venezuela. His trans-Atlantic route lay the foundation for future navigation in the region and his maps were used by Amerigo Vespucci (after whom the American continent takes its name), whose maps were used by later explorers of South America. The route across the Atlantic Ocean that Columbus charted in the 15th century is still used by sailors today. Columbus introduced the principle of compass variation (the variation at any point on the Earth's surface between the direction to magnetic and geographic north) and observed the rotation of the Pole star.

2. Columbus Day commemorates the discovery of America. In every significant way, Columbus "discovered" America. Even if others visited the continent sporadically before he did, their voyages had no historical significance. Columbus' voyages, however, mark the end of thousands of years of isolation between the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world and mark the beginning of recorded history of the Americas and the Caribbean, with more than 500 years of cultural, economic and political relations between Europe and the Americas beginning with his arrival in 1492. Columbus founded the first permanent European settlement in the Western Hemisphere, Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and was the first to open relations between Europe and the Western Hemisphere. While Columbus may have not been the first European to reach the Western Hemisphere, he was the first European to stay. His voyages directly initiated a permanent presence of Europeans in both North and South America, which led to the influx of ideas and people of Western Europe on which America was founded and still rests.

3. Columbus Day celebrates the beginning of cultural exchange between America and Europe. After Columbus, millions of European immigrants brought their art, music, science, medicine, philosophy and religious principles to America. These contributions have helped shape the United States and include Greek democracy, Roman law, Judeo-Christian ethics and the belief that all men are created equal. The **Columbian Exchange**, also known as the **Grand Exchange**, was a

dramatically widespread exchange of animals, plants, culture, human populations and ideas between the American and Afro-Eurasian Hemispheres. The contact between the two areas circulated a wide variety of new crops and livestock which supported increases in population in both hemispheres. One of the first European export, the horse, changed the lives of many Native American tribes on the Great Plains, allowing them to shift to a nomadic lifestyle based on hunting bison on horseback. Explorers returned to Europe with maize, potatoes, and tomatoes, which became very important crops in Eurasia by the 18th century. Similarly, Europeans introduced manioc and the peanut to tropical Southeast Asia and West Africa, where they flourished and supported growth in populations on soils that otherwise would not produce large yields.

4. Columbus Day is one of America's oldest holidays. The tradition of observing Columbus Day dates back to the 18th century in this country. It was first celebrated on October 12, 1792, when the New York Society of Tammany honored Columbus on the 300th anniversary of his first voyage.

5. Columbus Day is a patriotic holiday. The original Pledge of Allegiance, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands -- One nation indivisible -- with liberty and justice for all," was written in September of 1892 by Francis Bellamy for "The Youth's Companion" magazine in Boston. The phrase was printed on leaflets and sent to schools throughout the United States. The first organized use of the Pledge of Allegiance came on Oct. 12, 1892, when some 12 million American school children recited it to commemorate the 400-year anniversary of Columbus' voyage. That same year, President Benjamin Harrison declared Columbus Day a legal holiday.

6. Columbus Day also commemorates the arrival on these shores of more than 5 million Italians beginning in 1880. Today, the children and grandchildren of these early Italian Americans constitute the nation's fifth largest ethnic group, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

What Columbus Did NOT Do:

1. Columbus was NOT a slave-trader. He never owned any slaves or brought any to the Western Hemisphere from Africa. During his first voyage in 1492, Columbus landed on the island of Hispaniola. There, with the help of a tribe of friendly Taino Indians, he built a fort called *Navidad* and left 40 of his crew there when he returned to Spain in January 1493. On his return to Hispaniola in November 1493, he learned that all his men had been massacred by another Taino tribe. Columbus and his men fought with these Indians, capturing about 2,000 and in 1495, sent 500 of these prisoners of war (POW) to Spain to be sold as slaves, as was the custom in 15th century Europe. He sent another 30 Indian POWs to Spain the following year, but the Spanish monarchs ordered him to stop the practice and he never again sent Indians to Europe to be sold as slaves. **It is important to note that slavery was not unique to Europe. Columbus found it practiced in the Caribbean by the Caribs and Canibs who made slaves of the tribes they conquered and also ate their victims. (Hence the word "cannibal".)** Later Spanish explorers in Mexico and Central America found that even the more advanced civilizations of the Aztecs, Incas and Mayans kept slaves. These civilizations also practiced torture, ritual murder and the human sacrifice of their own women and children as well as of prisoners of war. Such practices horrified the Spanish and caused them to look down on native cultures. In fact, the Spanish arrival in the New World was the decisive factor that eventually ended human sacrifice and cannibalism there.

2. Columbus did NOT find and destroy sophisticated native civilizations. Most of the native tribes Columbus found were hunter-gatherers who engaged in bloody tribal wars and, in the case of the Arawaks, Caribs and Canibs, slavery, torture and cannibalism. To survive, the native populations depended on "slash-and-burn" cultivation of the land along with hunting, fishing and collecting edible wild plants, seeds and shellfish. They had no written language, history or literature. In their struggle for survival, these peoples were not the champions of the environment that they are often portrayed as today.

3. Columbus was NOT a racist. There is no evidence indicating that Columbus thought the islanders he met were racially inferior in any way. In fact, in the journal of his first voyage, Columbus describes the Tainos and other tribes as *"well-made with fine shapes and faces...their eyes were large and very beautiful...straight-limbed without exception and handsomely shaped...."* He praises their generosity, innocence and intelligence, saying they could *"readily become Christians as they have a good understanding."* Initially, Columbus had friendly relations with the five Taino tribes he met during his first voyage. These relations soured with four of the five tribes after he found the colony of men he had left behind in the fort *Navidad* had been slaughtered. **He became good friends, however, with one tribe of Tainos led by Chief Guacanagari, who helped Columbus build his fort and fought alongside Columbus against the Taino tribes that wanted to kill the Europeans.** Guacanagari paid heavily for his friendship with Columbus. His village was burned; he was wounded in battle and fled to the mountains where he died.

4. Columbus did NOT commit genocide. The destruction of the native populations of North and South America over the centuries is a complex historical tragedy. No one knows exactly how many people were here when the Europeans arrived. The numbers vary from 8 million to 145 million. Many researchers believe the number to be around 40 million. **Columbus made four voyages to the Caribbean in a twelve-year period (1492-1504), spending from only seven months to two years and nine months (including the year he was shipwrecked on his fourth voyage.) It is inconceivable that he could have killed millions of people in so short a time.** Responsibility for the deaths of many thousands of natives can justly be attributed to the Spanish conquistadors and other Europeans who followed Columbus here. But even in this case, since there were more natives than Europeans, the loss of millions of lives could not have been caused by the Spaniards' warfare and forced labor alone. **In fact, most of the native populations perished because they lacked immunity to such diseases as small pox, typhoid and diphtheria as well as the non-fatal childhood diseases of measles and mumps that they caught from the Spanish explorers.** These diseases were not transmitted deliberately and cannot be considered a tool of genocide. Scholars estimate that 80% of those who died were infected without ever seeing a white man. Tragic as this epidemic was, it also bears remembering that prior to the Europeans' arrival, the Western Hemisphere was no Garden of Eden. **New medical research on pre-Colombian mummies in Peru, Chile and remote areas far from the early European colonies reveals that tuberculosis, long thought European in origin, was rampant among the Indian tribes before the arrival of Columbus. Arthritis, periodontal disease and significant bone erosion also afflicted the native populations well before the voyages of Columbus and other Europeans.** Most adults, only in their 20s and 30s, had terrible teeth or none at all. Very few lived past age 40. **The native populations gave the early explorers syphilis, which they brought back to Europe.** Clearly, blaming Columbus for the extermination of the native populations is as fair as blaming the native populations for killing people who die from using tobacco and cocaine, which the natives introduced to the Europeans.

5. Columbus did NOT destroy the balance between man and nature. Columbus and the other Europeans brought with them Old World agricultural techniques, including crop rotation and animal breeding. They also introduced new tools (including the wheel) as well as new plants and domesticated animals, including the horse. **These imports led to improved farming methods, a greater diversity of crops and a more dependable food supply that benefited the native populations.** Perfected over the centuries, they have helped make the nations in the Western Hemisphere a significant source of food for the rest of the world.

6. Columbus and Europeans did NOT steal the natives' land. A sad fact of human civilization is that powerful nations usurp the land of the vanquished. The Spanish conquistadors who followed Columbus in the 16th and 17th centuries were establishing an empire through military conquest. They did what Egypt, Persia, Rome and China did before them in the Middle East, Europe and Asia. They also did what the Aztecs, Mayans, Incas and many North American Indians did in the Americas. "The Iroquois Federation in North America subjugated so many Indians," writes Richard Gambino, "that historian Francis Parkman calls them 'the Romans of the New World.'" But Columbus himself had no part in this. It is worth pointing out that the Europeans brought considerable benefits to Latin America. Their arrival gave the entire continent a common language, while in North America, land taken from the Iroquois and other tribes eventually became **the United States, a haven for the poor and oppressed from all over the world, who find opportunities and freedoms here that their own countries deny them.** And it all started with Columbus.

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FORMAL OPPOSITION TO:
LOS ANGELES COUNCILMEMBER MITCH O'FARRELL'S
MOTION TO REPLACE COLUMBUS DAY,
CELEBRATED ON THE 2ND OF OCTOBER,
WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY.

December 1, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member and/or supporter of the Italian American community, I hold Christopher Columbus in high regard for both his historic achievements and because Columbus Day is the only day our nation recognizes the heritage of an estimated 16 to 26 million Americans of Italian descent.

I wish to go on record that I formally oppose the motion set forth by LA Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, which seeks to replace Columbus Day, celebrated on the 2nd Monday of October, with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Please register this letter as "FORMAL OPPOSITION" to Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's MOTION.

In doing so, we invite those who may not be informed of his historical significance, to learn more about Columbus' accomplishments and why we believe in the continued celebration of Columbus Day, while also dispelling the myths and propaganda surrounding his legacy. Columbus Day recognizes the achievements of a great Renaissance explorer and commemorates the discovery of America, which led to the influx of ideas and people of Western Europe on which this nation was founded and still rests. Celebrating the beginning of cultural exchange between America and Europe is why this is one of America's oldest and patriotic holidays.

The Italian American community also credits the journey and arrival of Columbus as a way to commemorate the arrival on these shores of more than 5 million Italians beginning in 1880. By studying the achievements of Christopher Columbus in proper historical context, it is evident that Columbus was NOT a slave-trader, did NOT find and destroy sophisticated native civilizations, was NOT a racist, did NOT commit genocide, did NOT destroy the balance between man and nature and Columbus and Europeans did NOT steal the natives' land.

We also want to go on record that we fully support the celebration of "Native American Day", which has been recognized since 1968 on the 4th Friday in September.

We hope that you will help us defeat Councilman O'Farrell's motion. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Name/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone/Email: _____

Resident of (City): _____ (State) _____



Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

Fwd: FYI-Re: Letter regarding Motion File #15-1343-Keep the Columbus Day!

1 message

PATRICIA Villaseñor <patricia.villaseñor@lacity.org>
To: Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

Mon, Oct 24, 2016 at 11:58 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Vincenzo <vincenzoarobelli@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, May 7, 2016 at 8:40 AM

Subject: FYI-Re: Letter regarding Motion File #15-1343-Keep the Columbus Day!

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, councilmember.diane@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.krakorian@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, david.nyu@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.pace@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.bonh@lacity.org, councilmember.anglander@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, joe.buscaino@lacity.org, Sandra.Ciamaritano@sandra.ciamaritano@lacity.org, Joseph.Campbell@joseph.campbell@lacity.org, Dennis.Glaason@dennis.glaason@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, patricia.villaseñor@lacity.org, antonio.verde@esteri.it, Eleonora.Granata@elgranata@gmail.com>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_Indian_Heritage_Month

In Respect to celebrate the National American Indian Heritage Month,

We look forward to celebrate also the Columbus Day in Los Angeles to share also a moment of friendship !

Thank you for the kindly attention.

Regards,

Vince Arcobelli
Cons. CGIE in USA

On Apr 24, 2016, at 7:36 PM, Vincenzo Arcobelli <vincenzoarobelli@gmail.com> wrote:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council of Los Angeles, I have attached a Letter of request for your kindly attention and consideration .

Thank You for your kindly Reply.

Vince Arcobelli
972-365-9310

April 24, 2016

Hon. Mitch O'Farrell, Councilman, 13th 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

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 15th District

Members of the Arts Parks Committee
Hon.Bob Blumenfeld,Councilman 3th District
Hon.Paul Koretz,Councilman 5th District
Hon.Curren D.Price,Councilman 9th District
Hon.David E.Ryu,Councilman 4th 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)

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Patricia M. Villaseñor, Executive Director
Human Relations Commission &
Commissions and Community Engagement
Housing+Community Investment Department Los Angeles
1200 West 7th Street
Suite 905 G
Los Angeles, CA 90017
patricia.villaseñor@lacity.org
Cell Phone: 213.216.9676

Find us on:

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Michelle Garcia

1446 ½ E. 53rd St.

Los Angeles, CA 90011

garcia.michelleafc2018@gmail.com

The Los Angeles City Council

Council Members

200 N Spring St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Michelle Garcia and I am a an eleventh grader high school student at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. As an AP, advanced placement, and honors student I have been fully able to maintain my life outside of school and maintaining appropriate grades in order to become successful. Being completely involved in many clubs inside and outside of school demonstrates my loyalty and passion into wanting to represent and further make an impact on someone's life. National Honors Society, Health and Medicine, Junior State of America, Youth Business Alliance, Spanish club, and GirlPower are the clubs I am currently and have been involved with for the past two years. With all the clubs I am involved in I've been able to gain multiple skills that will benefit myself and my future.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day, it will reveal a truth in history that has been hidden for many years. Ever since elementary school, I was often told by my history teachers that Christopher Columbus was a very heroic person that made multiple positive impacts in society; but it wasn't until I was currently informed in my English class that he did the extreme opposite of what I was often told. In the article, "Columbus Controversy" that was published in 2009 by History.com staff; states, "Columbus and his men enslaved many native inhabitants...to extreme violence and brutality." It is clear to say that Columbus took full advantage of his position as the first European that sailed to America. Enslaving innocent people does not signify a heroic person, so why is it that Columbus has his specific day all to himself? Not only that, but as the native americans were enslaved he also took full advantage of them and mistreated them even more. This demonstrates that Columbus was sent to discover new land and he took full advantage of this opportunity by making these innocent Native Americans suffer severe events. I extremely believe that we should not continue to honor a day dedicated to someone who made innocent people suffer multiple ways. Being able to dedicate a day to those who suffered many extreme strategies would allow people to further

Michelle Rodriguez

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255

20 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council

Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Michelle Rodriguez, I am 16 years old, and I have lived in South Central my whole life. I am a junior in high honor roll at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I currently participate in the youth orchestra of Los Angeles. I enjoy performing classical music with my peers who have different cultural backgrounds.

I am writing to you because I strongly believe that the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because Indigenous people were here before Columbus supposedly 'discovered' America. In my opinion, it would be unfair to celebrate the enslavement of people. For instance, in the article, "Columbus Controversy" by History.com Staff, it states, "On his famous first voyage in 1492...he ordered six of the natives to be seized, writing in his journal that he believe they would be good servants." Columbus did not see the Native Americans as people. He saw them as objects he could obtain and use as his own. I strongly feel like Columbus was not the hero Americans made him to be. He is actually a man that killed many indigenous people and does not deserve to be celebrated. Native Americans have suffered for more than 100 years. We need to take at least a day, to acknowledge Native Americans as people, not some trendy style or culture, but as actual people.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope you consider what I said while making this decision that will affect our future.

Sincerely,



Michelle Rodriguez

Lupita Castellanos

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255

20th September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council

Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Lupita Castellanos, I am 16 years old, and I am currently a 11th grader at Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School. I participate in a club called DELTA. In DELTA we do community service and help those around the Los Angeles community. I've been living in Los Angeles my whole life, so whatever happens in my community concerns me.

I'm writing to you in regards of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Day. The City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous day because Native Americans deserve a day where they are able to honor those who were massacred a day after the first Thanksgiving. According to the article, "True History of Thanksgiving" stories, Which Do You Believe?" it states, "The first Thanksgiving took place in 1637... The men had traveled to the Mystic area in which 700 men, women and children were massacred..." Evidence suggest, that Thanksgiving was not a good thing. Native Americans should be honored and respected because they deserve it in my point of view. I believe Native Americans are still being disrespected at this point of time. Their culture is always being appropriated. There are teams such as the Washington Redskins that by their name already sets a disturbing stereotype. During halloween, stores sell costumes that include feathers and prints which are sacred to the Native culture. They already suffered enough, and for them to be disrespected with such stereotypes should not be continued. They deserve to have a day for themselves.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding the replacement of Columbus Day with Indigenous day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lupita Castellanos". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lupita Castellanos

Fernanda Avila

2403 Flower St.
Huntington Park, CA 90255

20th September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council

Council Members
200 N Spring St
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

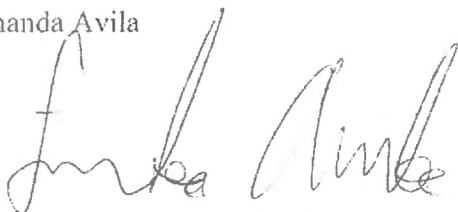
My name is Fernanda Naxhiel Avila, I am 16 years old and I am an 11th grader in Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. Some clubs that I have joined in my school are Fashion Club, Spanish Club, and Leading Youth For Equality (LYFE). I have lived in Los Angeles my whole life, this place is my home.

I am writing to you because I think the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous day. I do not find it is lawful that we have been taught since we were kids to celebrate a day praising a man who enslaved/killed many innocent people and claimed their land as his. For instance, in "Columbus Controversy" by History.com Staff, it says "...Columbus and his men enslaved many native inhabitants of the West Indies and subjected them to extreme violence and brutality." This proves that Columbus is not fit to be a historical figure in America's history and does not deserve a day that celebrates his ruling of a massive genocide. I believe the time has come to teach the future generation the truth about the man Christopher Columbus truly is and what he did to an entire ethnic group.

Thank you for taking time from you day to read my letter. I really hope you take this information into consideration.

Sincerely,

Fernanda Avila

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fernanda Avila', written in a cursive style.

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA
90255

22 September 2016

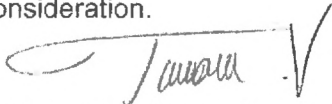
The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Tamara Vazquez and I am a 11th grader at Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School. Although I attend school in Huntington Park I live in Lynwood where there is a lot of latin culture, I myself am a hispanic person who believes that all the different cultures we have all around the world should be recognized and honored.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus day with Indigenous Day because Columbus is seen as a heroic person who discovered America but in reality he is one of the most cruel, ruthless, and pitiless men out there and let us not forget that he caused so many native peoples deaths. Columbus could not have discovered a land that was already discovered and occupied by the indigenous people. The indigenous people have gone through so much in their existence in this world. For instance, their lands were taken away from them for nothing in return but little pieces of dry land where they live in poverty up until today. They were given those pieces of land in hopes that they would not survive. In the article "Columbus Controversy" it states " There are three main sources ...Columbus interactions with the indigenous people he labeled "indians": the use of violence and slavery...and the interaction of a host of new diseases that would have dramatic long-term effects on native people in the Americas." This evidence reveals how dreadful of a person Columbus was towards the native people. He caused so many deaths because he brought with him a killer disease that killed many indigenous people and this is the man people want to have a special day for instead of the people who truly deserve it. It is crucial that at this we rectify all the harm that we have caused towards Native Americans, and celebrate and honor their culture and their contributions to society.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding the topic that Columbus day should be replaced by Indigenous day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tamara V', with a large, stylized 'V' at the end.

Sincerely, Tamara Vazquez

9418 Holmes Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90002
September 20, 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012


To Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Christian and I am a sixteen year old who lives in Los Angeles. I am currently a student at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School in Huntington Park as an 11th grader. I play sports and also take part in the swimming team and the water polo team in Ted Watkins Park. I am in a family of 5, including my mother and father. I am a hard worker for my family in mobile car wash with my dad. I go around Los Angeles cleaning vehicles and also clean the shuttles of Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. I am one with my community and my mother who takes part in some of the 5k runs in Los Angeles.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day. I am aware that there is Native Americans living in our community and throughout Los Angeles. In my eleventh grade English class, we are talking about the Plymouth Plantation; my English teacher told our class about the possible change of Columbus day. I strongly feel that as a kid, I'd like to know the truth about this nation instead of being lied to. Columbus was not a man I'd like to celebrate. For instance, He labeled the Indigenous people as Indians and he used indigenous people as slaves, he used violence and also force them be in the Christian religion. We thank this "hero" for finding "new land" although it was perfectly fine without them and the indigenous people were great full for having this land. He was a bad man, with no intention to share the land but to take it and conquer all that were there. For that specific reason, I have a strong feeling that this place, my humble home of los Angeles should stop celebrating Columbus day and be changed to Indigenous people day. This evidence reveals that Columbus should not be honored and needs to be known throughout this nation as a murder and a thief.

I hope you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding the change of the Columbus holiday to Indigenous People's Day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alvarez Christian



Michelle Escobar
Huntington Park, CA 90255
22 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N spring St.
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

Hello, my name is Michelle Escobar I attend school at Alliance Collins Family College Ready high school. I'm 16 years old and I'm the only child in my family. I was born in the city of Chinatown in the year 2000. I live in the city of Los Angeles with my single mother who is from Guatemala.

I am writing to you because the city of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because they were actually the first ones to be in America before Columbus came to America and declare that he found America. Many of the colonist were able to survive purely through the aid of the indigenous people who welcomed them and taught them how to survive in the new world. The Indigenous people should have their own holiday that celebrates their culture for being the actual first citizens and colonists of America. In my class we have learned more about the first encounter between the indigenous people and the colonists, and how at the end the colonists made some unfair tradings with the indigenous people and didn't provide them with equal rights. Based on what I have learned from my class, Columbus didn't quite find America first because when he got to America the Indigenous people were already living in America, but yet they aren't recognized for their contributions to our society today. Rather they were labeled and stereotyped by Columbus and "indians" and "savages" and treated unjustly. For instance, in the program video called "We Shall Remain" by PBS reveals how the colonist came to America which they called "the New World" and through time the Indigenous people thought the colonist about their culture and what they eat in their everyday bases and what not to eat. Also through time the colonist started making unfair exchanges with the colonist such as the colonist trading their weapons for the Indigenous' land. This evidence reveals how the indigenous people should be recognized for being the first citizens in America. This evidence also reveals how Columbus wasn't the first one to find America.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding in replacing Columbus day to Indigenous day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michelle Escobar



2072 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
20 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Julia Nunez and I am currently a junior and honor student at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I have been living in Los Angeles my whole life. Something I love to do is explore the different places of Los Angeles and take pictures. Not only am I interested in photography, but also music.

I am writing to you because I believe that the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day to honor the struggles that the Native Americans had to live with, such as slavery. The article, "Columbus Controversy" states, "Throughout his years in the New World, Columbus enacted policies of forced labor in which natives were put to work for the sake of profits" (history.com). When Christopher Columbus landed in the New World, he encountered some Natives that were already there and thought that they would be good servants. After being in the New World for a while, the slaves were used for working and were treated brutally. Why would we honor a man that used the Native Americans against their will? In my opinion having Indigenous Day will not only make people unite like never before but it will also teach us the history that was never told.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding Columbus Day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Julia Nunez

Lizbeth Villarreal
3200 Live Oak st.
Huntington Park, Ca 90255
villarreal.lizbethacf2018@gmail.com
19 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
Ca 90255

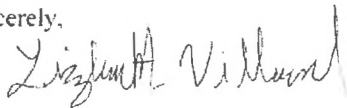
Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Lizbeth Villarreal and I am currently a junior at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I am a honor roll student who is a part of Leading Youth For Equality and in Youth Business Alliance. In both my English and Ap Us History class I have been studying the start of Us history and how the puritans came from England to the New World to start a new life.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day in order to honor the Natives who were in America before the Europeans arrived and all the horrible events they went through. Long before the Pilgrims came to the New World there was already humans located in what is now our home. They had a life set up which was later shaken by these strangers who were in the future going to leave a big impact in their culture. One impact was the establishment of a treaty in which they were looking for peace. In "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford he states, "...after friendly entertainment and some gifts given, they made a peace with him...in these terms." The treaty that Bradford mention, which is know by most people was really only to benefit the Pilgrims. The treaty did not leave the Naives with much choice nor with much rights. The treaty explains how when the Indians came to them, they could not have their weapons but no where in the treaty did it state that the pilgrims could not come with their guns. To me this demonstrates how there was never real equality between both the Pilgrims and the Natives which is a great factor to why Columbus Day should not be celebrated. It is clear that by continuing to honor a day just for Coulmbus would be to encourage a great inequality which includes violence because not only did he not respect the rights of the Natives but he also did not respect their lives since he enslaved a lot of Natives. We cannot allow our community to continue being a part of a day which only teaches us and the future of this city to pay respect to a man that only did harm instead of paying respect to people of good who only wanted to help others.

Thank you for your time and I really hope the right choice is made in order for me and my family to continue being proud of where if live.

Sincerely,



Lizbeth Villarreal

Jazmin Bustamante

6324 Otis Ave.
Bell, CA. 90201
(323)695-4893
jazzymb2000@gmail.com

20th September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council

Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Jazmin Marie Bustamante and I am a 15 year old female attending Alliance Collins Family College Ready High school in Huntington Park as a Junior. I have lived in this city for majority of my life surrounded by my very loving family along with 2 wonderful dogs that I am lucky enough to have with me. Currently my dad is attending college after deciding a major career change from working in the tire industry to becoming an engineer. My mom is the breadwinner in our family for the time being, she is working for an Insurance company known as AAA, The American Automobile Association. I also have two younger siblings attending Elementary school, one in 2nd grade and the other in 5th grade.

I am writing this letter to you today because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day due to various reasons such as giving Native American citizens the credit and honour they were long overdue. Within the article "Columbus Controversy" on History.com. it states, "There are three main sources of controversy involving Columbus's interactions with the indigenous people he labeled "Indians": the use of violence and slavery, the forced conversion of native peoples to Christianity, and the introduction of a host of new diseases that would have dramatic long-term effects on native people in the Americas." During the time the Colonist had arrived they also brought along many unknown diseases with them, many Natives soon became infected with the new illness in which their bodies could not fend away causing many of them to die. They were even enslaved more than Africans for a very long period in time. Colonist also did not agree with the way their culture was and instead of learning how to accept it or understand their beliefs they decided to rid of the Natives way and force their own beliefs onto them in hopes of "cleansing" the Natives of their sins. The article also informs its readers that, "...Columbus and his men enslaved many native inhabitants of the West Indies

Stacy Y. Gonzalez
2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park CA 90255
Gutierrez.stacy0827@gmail.com

20 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Stacy Y. Gonzalez, and I am sixteen years old. For all of those sixteen years I've lived in Los Angeles. I go to a small charter school called, "Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School". I am currently a junior here, and I have a gpa of 3.7. After living for sixteen years, burly two weeks ago I learned in both my Common Core English and U.S History class the real story about the first people to come to America, and no they weren't the Europeans. I've been told all my educational life that Napoleon Buonaparte and his group the Europeans were the first to arrive to America.

Columbus Day should be replaced with Indigenous Day for many reasons. One would be that it's not fair for the Europeans who were not here first to take the Indigenous credit in our history. Another would be in the article, " 6 'True History of Thanksgiving' Stories, Which Do You Believe?" by the Indian Country Media Network.com it clearly refers back in time to the real truth about the first people to come to America. It states, "The men had traveled to the Mystic area where they participated in the Pequot War in which 700 Pequot men, women, and children were massacred". In other words, the Indigenous were invited by the Europeans to celebrate their peace, which was known as Thanksgiving. They both celebrated and then the Europeans turned their backs on them and killed 700 Pilgrims. This was such a discriminatory move. The Europeans not only took their credit but they also killed many of them. This makes the Europeans look inferior, so why should we keep celebrating Columbus Day when all they did was bring bad to the Indigenous. The Indigenous went through a lot so they should be appreciated and celebrated on October 10, Indigenous Day.

I hope that you will consider this letter as a source to help come to an agreement if Indigenous Day should be replaced with Columbus Day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Stacy Y. Gonzalez

1252 E. 77Th Place
Los Angeles, Ca 90001
22 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Karen Ruby Aguilar and I am 16 years old. I am currently attending Alliance Collins Family High School. I am in ASB as the junior secretary and the National Honor Society, I love to spend time with my family and be involved in the community.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because the Native people should be honored for the struggle they went through. For instance, in "Columbus Controversy" by History.com staff, it states, "Columbus ordered the brutal crackdown in which many natives were killed. "It is clear that Columbus put the Native population in danger. The Natives show no evidence of harm towards Columbus even when he tried to take their land. This shows that the Natives struggled to keep their land even if it meant getting killed, they still tried to remain where they were at. I strongly believe that the Natives should have the honor they deserve. What they went through is not often talked about and they should be remembered. It seems to me that the Indians weren't respected and even now, still are not. Therefore, I believe that Columbus day should be changed to Indigenous Day because Natives should be honored for what they went through due to Columbus.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding Columbus Day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Karen Aguilar

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
September 22, 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council Members
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Gina Diana Ocegueda and I am a junior at Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School. I am in YBA, NHS, Volleyball, and Cheer. Recently, in my English class, I learned several things behind what actually happened when Christopher Columbus and other Europeans arrived in America for the first time.

I am writing to you because I strongly believe the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because Columbus Day is fundamentally celebrating how the Indigenous people suffered because of the European settlers. In "Colonial America Depended on the Enslavement of Indigenous People", Marissa Fessenden wrote "That massacre turned the tide of the war and Pequot survivors were pursued, captured and sold as slaves." (2) In 1637, European settlers murdered 400 to 700 people of a powerful tribe named Pequots. The people that survived were turned into slaves. The Europeans mistreated the Indigenous people and eventually stole their land. However, this piece of history has been ignored for hundreds of years until recently. Because it has been ignored, many people of this country do not even know about or who are the Indigenous people. I strongly believe that Indigenous Day should be a day of remembrance and should be celebrated and worshipped.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding whether or not to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Gina Ocegueda

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina Ocegueda". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Todjuan Cook
10510 s central
Watts CA, 90002
(323) 627-2439
Todjuanc33337@students.laalliance.org

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

Hi my name is Todjuan but I prefer TJ and i am 17 years old. I am currently a senior at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I am also an competitive athlete who loves football. I grew up in Watts where the streets are normally flooded with negativity. But growing up i learned to that in order to become successful you have to have self perseverance and you also have to take responsibility for your actions.

I am writing you this because the City of Los Angeles are making efforts to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because some feel that the credit for discovering America has been taken away from the Native Americans. I believe that columbus day should be replaced with indigenous day. In the article "Columbus controversy" by the people of History.com it states "In an era which the national slave trade was starting to grow, Columbus and his men enslaved many Native inhabitants of the western indies and subjected them to extreme violence and brutality." Without a doubt it seems to me that columbus is taking the credit of Native americans. Because the article also states "...columbus and his teams treated the indigenous groups they came across as obstacles to their greater mission.". When columbus came across the "New world" it was already occupied by the native americans, columbus used them as slaves to help construct the new world in which we call America. Others must agree that columbus day should be replaced with indigenous day being that columbus is not a historical figure and the native americans were on this land first.

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA
90255
September 20, 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Ruby Barrales and I am a student at Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School. I am currently in the All-star dance team and I am their junior varsity captain. I am in my junior year in high school and I only have one AP class so far and it is AP spanish and I am on the honor roll. There is one funny thing about me I have been living in Los Angeles since I was born and I have not explored many places that are in the city. There is many things that I am passionate about but the top one is Art. Art is what I use to express my personality sometimes and what I notice instead of me writing down my feelings I draw it out, but not many people know that about me. I have a family of 5 and all my siblings are older than me, which makes me the youngest. Since, I am the youngest you may probably think I get everything I want, but I don't. I have to work for it and help my dad around the house.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because Native Americans deserve to be honored for what they had been through especially when the Columbus Controversy had started. During the "Columbus Controversy" by History.com, "the international slave had started to grow and what Columbus and his men had done was that they will enslave the west indians with violence and brutality." The one most brutal thing that Columbus did was that he had send so many peaceful Taino indians to Spain to be sold and many of them had died on their way there. Can't you believe that? According to the article "Columbus Controversy" many people did not know some damages that Columbus made, so many schools were celebrating Columbus day without knowing the actual truth on how he was actually treating the Native Americans. That is why Columbus day should be changed with Indigenous day. This evidence reveals that this whole time that Columbus day was being celebrated many people did not know until this day the real truth behind Christopher Columbus. Many people before will think he was a nice guy but he actually wasn't for what he did to the Native.

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
September - 29, 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles Ca 90012

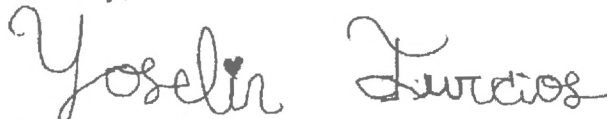
Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Yoselin Turcios, I am 17 years old. I am recently attending Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School, and I am in the 11th grade. I live in Los Angeles but the high school I attend is in Huntington Park. I am part of the dance team at my school.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus day with Indigenous day because Indigenous people have suffered a great loss by becoming enslaved. In my opinion changing Columbus day to Indigenous day is a great idea. The Indigenous people were the first one to be in this country but Columbus came to this country and did a terrible thing to the Native Americans. In the Article "Columbus Controversy" we get a clear understanding on how Columbus was to the Native. In the article it states "International slave trade was starting to grow, Columbus and his men enslaved many native inhabitants of the West Indies and subject them to extreme violence and brutality." Without doubt, I can tell that Columbus was being too cruel to the Native for no reason. Columbus comes to America and takes the Americans out of their natural habitat and does not consider the feelings of the Natives, as if they were worthless objects on this Earth.

In addition, the fact is that when I was younger, no one told me of the horrible events Columbus has done to the Native people. I had always believed that Columbus was this nice man and that Thanksgiving was created for happiness and joy, however the truth is on the contrary. Therefore, I feel that it is important that we recognize the Indigenous people for the terrible experiences they went through. I hope you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding changing Columbus day to Indigenous day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yoselin Turcios". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Yoselin Turcios

4628 E Florence Ave. Apt #7
Bell CA, 90201
September 22, 2014

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Franchesca Reyes I am a 16 year old teenager that lives in a community where everyone celebrates different types of culture. I am a student at, Alliance Collins Family College Ready-High School. I have two siblings. My young sister is named Nataly Reyes, and my youngest sister is named Juana Reyes. I am in the 11th grade. I am writing this letter because I want Indigenous people to have a chance to be able to be celebrated by something that is special to them as if it were for me.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because Indigenous people should be able to be recognized and celebrated by all their hard work they have done since they were the first ones to live here. Indigenous people have put in all their hard work every day since they moved to this state. Although, Columbus was the one to settle connections with the United States and encountered many Indigenous people throughout his voyages, Indigenous people should have the opportunity to celebrate their culture freely, the fact they had to come to America and work hard and be mistreated by slavery that was going on by the Colonial economy. In the article "Colonial America Dependent on The Enslavement of Indigenous People" By Marissa Fessenden, the author states "The Colonial economy depended on slavery, many well-to-do households functioned only because of slavery, early colonial legal codes were devised to justify slavery and the Pequot War and King Phillip's War were fought in large measure to perpetuate slavery". This shows how Indigenous people were not treated how they were supposed to, that's why if they wouldn't have ever came to the United States first we wouldn't have the chance to find so many things there is nowadays.

I just think that there should be a day/s where people who put in all their effort can make a change in this world and actually be celebrated. I hope you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding Columbus Day being replaced with Indigenous people. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Franchesca Reyes

Franchesca Reyes

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
13 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Jonathan Gutierrez and I am a junior at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I love baseball and I am a die-hard Dodgers fan. Therefore, I am a proud American who loves living in the city of Los Angeles. Recently my class has been reading and studying about the colonial times. This has really sparked my interest in learning more about my country's history.

I am writing to you because the city of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because Columbus didn't truly discover America because the indigenous people were already here. Columbus brought great torment and disaster to the indigenous people, and they deserve for us to fix what was done and stolen from them. For instance, in the article "Columbus Controversy" by History.com they found that "the use of violence and slavery, the forced conversion of native people to Christianity, and the introduction of a host of new diseases that would have dramatic long-term effects on native people in the America's" was caused by Columbus. This evidence reveals that we shouldn't support and celebrate someone who showed no respect towards the indigenous people who didn't do anything against him. It also demonstrates that he took advantage and captured them in slavery to serve himself and make himself more richer and powerful, and didn't give them any rights which is what this country stands for; justice and freedom.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding changing Columbus Day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Gutierrez

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
13 september 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Alexander Castillo and I am currently in my junior year and an honors student in high school. I love football and everything about it. I am a die-hard Eagles fans but I respect the Rams and their legacy here in Los Angeles. My parents are from Mexico and they came to this city so me and my brothers can have a bright future. After high school, I plan on joining the marine corps and fight for my country that I love.

I am writing to you because the City of los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because the Native Americans should be honored for the hardships they have endured all these years. To this day Native Americans are not getting the respect they deserve. Christopher Columbus and his men used violence and enslaved the native people forcing them to follow their beliefs. Not only that but Columbus brought diseases with him that impacted the population the native people in a negative way. I learned this from History.com staff because I was not taught this in school. I strongly believe the city of Los Angeles should not have a day dedicated to a man with so many deaths under his name but instead we should have a day to remember those who have perished.

Hopefully you will use this letter in regards to considering changing Columbus day with Indigenous Day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Alexander Castillo

Aaron Zavala

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255

20th September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council

Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,,

To begin with my name is Aaron Zavala and I am currently a junior in high school. I try to get involved in the community as much as I can. I am currently a firefighter explorer. I also dedicate some of my free time volunteering at parks.

However the purpose of this letter is not to write a full soliloquy about myself. I wanted to express my opinion and ideas on the debate about adding indigenous day by taking out Columbus day and implementing Indigenous day in its place. In my opinion I strongly believe that indigenous day should take place of columbus. I believe that Christopher Columbus was a very demanding and a bit of a tyrant individual. The text by History.com gives reasons as to how he acted towards the Native Americans. In the text "COLUMBUS CONTROVERSY" it references how he "...forced conversion of native peoples to Christianity..." This specific piece of evidence can bring one one pause for thought to to really go in depth to see if Christopher Columbus is in fact man that should be celebrated.

I want to thank you for your time and consideration for reading my letter regarding the issue on whether or not indigenous day should replace Columbus day.

Sincerely,

Aaron Z.

Aaron Zavala

Karina Garcia
2051 76th St Apt A
Los Angeles
CA 90001

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

If I were to choose a city where to be born again I would not hesitate on choosing Los Angeles. My name is Karina Garcia, I just turned 17 this month. I am currently attending Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School as a Junior. I love to volunteer outside of school which is why I am a teacher's assistant at an elementary school. In the future I would like to rejoin dance class and possibly work for an afterschool program that I am presently participating in. I love to be social in that way because I am doing something I am passionate about and I will be thankful that Los Angeles opened those opportunities for me.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day. Due to the selfishness of Columbus who only recognizes his positive founding of the New World, when in reality he tortured Indians unfairly. For instance in the document, "Columbus Controversy" written by History.com staff in 2009, states " Columbus sent thousands of peaceful Taino "Indians" from the island of Hispaniola to Spain to be sold." It seems to me that Columbus was a cruel man to the Native Americans by forcing them to become slaves. As a result it should be changed to Indigenous day because the Indians do not get the signification of what they suffered through such as violence and slavery. It was dreadful that poor innocent people had to deal with that pain. The indians were in their own land and were not free to do what they desire, instead had to be obedient to whatever Columbus demanded. Which is why it should be replaced to get the honor that the Native Americans deserve.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding that Columbus day should be replaced to Indigenous Day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Karina Garcia

Katy Rios
2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
13 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200N Spring St.
Los Angeles
Ca 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

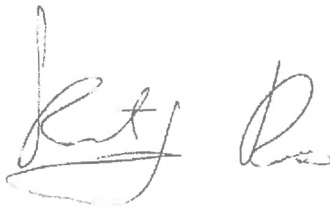
My name is Katy Rios and I am 16 years old. I am currently a Junior at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I love spending time with my friends and family. I have been living here in Huntington Park for about 11 years now with my mother. The community I live in is a very pleasant place and the people here are very kind hearted.

I was currently informed that the City of Los Angeles is debating on whether or not they should replace Columbus day with Indigenous day. I strongly believe that they should replace Columbus day with Indigenous day because colonists depended on the Native Americans for slavery therefore, it shows us that it was okay to treat people that way. For instance in the article "Colonial America dependent on the Enslavement of Indigenous People" The author Marissa Fessenden suggests the truth about the American history which was that the colonists depended on the Native Americans. She stated that, "The colonial economy depended on slavery, many well-to-do households functioned only because of slavery" this informs us that not only that the colonies needed slaves. I really feel that it's not fair for the Native Americans since we celebrate Columbus day without realizing that we are giving an image of being okay with slavery. By replacing Columbus day with Indigenous day we are showing the Native Americans that we actually do value them.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope you take this information into consideration.

Sincerely,

Katy Rios

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katy Rios', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alexa Serrano
6911 Miles Ave.
Huntington Park, CA. 90255

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring ST.
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

September 23, 2016

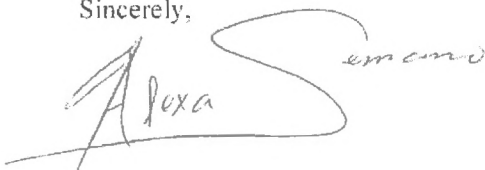
Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Alexa Serrano. I am a student at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I am currently involved in three different clubs: YBA (Youth Business Alliance), LYFE (Leading Youth For Equality), and Relationship Club. I am in my junior year of high school and I am taking two AP classes and one Honors class. I am a fan of books, science, and being an activist for people of color.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus day with Indigenous day because I do not believe in celebrating the In "Columbus Controversy" by History.com Staff it states, "...Columbus's interactions with the indigenous people he labeled 'natives': the use of violence and slavery, the forced conversion of native peoples to Christianity, and the introduction...of new diseases." From my point of view, Columbus is not a historical figure I would like to remember. He was a greedy, power hungry man that saw Native Americans as obstacles rather than friends. Why would Americans worship a man who ethnically cleansed more than a hundred Native Americans? That suffering did not end when Columbus left. Americans took their land, religion, culture and language. Americans shoved them into reservations with a poor school system, water supply and energy supply. I believe that the right thing to do would be replacing Columbus day and giving Native Americans a day they can actually find pride in. Let us not continue celebrating the suffering of people.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope you take this information into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The first part of the signature is the name "Alexa" written in a cursive style. This is followed by a large, stylized, looping flourish that extends to the right and then loops back down to the left, ending under the name "Alexa".

Alexa Serrano

7602 Miramonte Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90001
September 19, 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council Members
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Bernardo Suastegui and I am a student at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School . I am currently in two clubs at my school and one of them is Delta, which is about helping people in our community and the second club I'm in is music club and I'm practicing how to play the guitar and the piano.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because the Indians deserve to have a day specifically for them since this was their land first and since it was taken over by the English settlers. For Instance, in 'We Shall Remain' by PBS in the It gave a different point of view because William Bradford would describe the Indians as savages. When the Indians and the settlers, the settlers were the ones ready to attack while the settlers showed a sign of violence by pointing their guns at the Indians. This shows that

Cordially,

Bernardo Suastegui

Bernardo Suastegui

1129E 76pl,
Los Angeles, C.A 90001
19 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council Member
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, C.A 90001

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Andrew Villanueva and I am a sports guy. Sports has been one of my hobbies I do to get stuff out of my mind and it helps me. I am a 11 grader attending Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I am a soccer player for the school and I wear number 5 for about three years with the school already. I have 6 siblings and they are all guys but only went to college and I want to be the other one to go.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because of the frauds and cruelty the indigenous people receive by other colonist. For instance, in the article "Columbus Controversy" by a history staff , it states that "on his first day in the New World , he ordered six of the natives to be seized." I believe that this is horrible because Columbus he made 6 natives suffer because he believe they will "be good servant." This reveals that Columbus was not at all a good guy but a guy that causes torture to the indigenous people.

Why celebrate a day where a guy made hundreds of people be in pain ? Everyone knows that Christopher Columbus was not trying to discover North America but was really trying to find another way to India. He just came into a world and name the people he found Indians and that name has stuck with them for centuries. It is a name that we should no longer use today.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding changing Columbus day to Indigenous day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Villanueva', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Villanueva

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
22 September 2016

**The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N. Spring St.
CA 90012**

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

I am Nancy Mejia. I am a junior at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High school. I am in ASB and it has taught me to stand up for things I believe in. ASB has helped me be more involved with our school community and to try to unite all grade levels. Bringing unity into the school atmosphere helps us better our school.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because Indigenous people were a big part of the New World. They were already here with their own cultures and way of life. Columbus came to the New World by mistake in 1492. According to the article Christopher Columbus by the History website they stated how the voyage brought, "Disease and environmental changes" to the New world. Columbus did transform the New World but this brought not only harm to the Indigenous people who made the New World their home but the environment. He brought diseases to the New world that killed a mass number of Indigenous people since they did not have good resources to stay alive and their body never encountered these diseases. In the article Columbus Controversy by the history channel it states, how Columbus "ordered six of the natives to be seized, writing in his journal he believed they would be good servants." Columbus treated the natives poorly and thought them as lower class because they did not speak nor know how to read and write. He did not show any respect towards the people who already spread around the lands. He took over without thinking twice. Columbus Day should not be celebrated if all he really did was bring horrible causes to other human beings.

Furthermore, Indigenous people should be celebrated since they were the first ones here. In the article Plymouth Plantation by William Bradford he explains the first settlers encounter with the Indians in 1620 and repeatedly called them "barbarians and savages". Surely the Indians were just unfamiliar with the settlers and felt alarmed but every human being would be cautious if they met new people who speak other languages and were more advanced than them. I strongly

believe that Indigenous Day should replace Columbus Day. Indigenous suffered deeply and this incident should not be ignored. People mostly talk about African slavery yet slavery began with Indians when the settlers came. Indians were called names and looked down upon because of their cultural and how different they were. People did not really know about Indian slavery till the beginning of this year. Indigenous people getting their own day would be a next step in society. Without a doubt we need to honor the Native cultural and Natives who died from new diseases, killed or put into slavery many years ago because all this history shaped America and they had a big part of it.

I hope you will consider this letter for when you look at any future action regarding changing Columbus day. Thank you for your time and consideration with this community issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Mejia". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Nancy Mejia

2071 Saturn Ave .
Huntington Park, CA 90255
September 19, 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Jocelynn Sanchez and I am a student at Alliance Collins Family High School. I am 15 years old and live in South Los Angeles.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because he was not much of a heroic figure and therefore does not deserve to be recognized. Although, that would be offensive for the Italian Americans and others who actually recognize that day for him, there should be a date for the Indigenous people as there is for Columbus. Evidence that shows why Columbus Day should not be celebrated, located in the History.com article "Columbus Controversy" states Columbus's interactions involved with the Indigenous people. "The use of violence and slavery, the forced conversion of native peoples to Christianity, and the introduction of a host of new diseases that would have dramatic long-term effects on native people in the Americas." This evidence reveals the negative things that he did which resemble him as not a good person. I would not want to celebrate nor honor him as a hero. There should be an Indigenous Day for Natives because they were the ones affected and should be recognized. The natives were a big part of Columbus's interactions and should be honored.

Best Regards,

Jocelynn Sanchez

Jenny Ramos

1954 East. 73rd St.
Los Angeles, CA 90001
(323)5612683
ramos.jenniferact2018@gmail.com

22 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council

Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

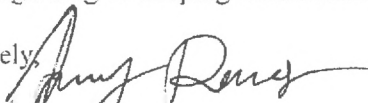
Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Jenny Ramos and I attend Alliance Collins Family College Ready. I am in ASB which is a class that represents the school and we as leaders listen to the voices of other students and makes the school a better place for everyone. I am also in cheer and it is one of my favorite things to do, because I love giving school spirit. As a school leader I like to hear the opinion of others and make everything better for them at school. My teacher had recently informed us how the Los Angeles City Council are thinking about changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Day. I am here to express my opinion.

Without doubt the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because Columbus was very cruel against the Indians when he came to America, including that the Indians were there to. He didn't bring the best aspects to America and wasn't a hero. For instance in the article "Columbus Controversy" by the staff of the History channel it quotes, "Later, Columbus sent thousands of peaceful Taino "Indians" from the island of Hispaniola to Spain to be sold. Many died in route." This proves how Columbus had mistreated Indians when he landed in America. This doesn't show any heroic movement he did and he doesn't seem like the hero people make him out to be. He deliberately sent away peaceful Indians to be sold, and most of them couldn't make it because they tragically died throughout the way. We shouldn't recognize a day to someone who did nothing but cruelty against people, that is not what a hero is especially that we refer to Columbus as a hero when he has done nothing but kill innocent Indians. He didn't bring the best aspects to America, but violence he raped women and massacred men.

Overall, Columbus Day should be replaced with Indigenous day because Columbus shouldn't be remembered as a hero, when he has done horrible actions. I hope you take in consider of my opinion and thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider my opinion when you look at any future action regarding on keeping Columbus Day. Thank you once again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Jenny Ramos

1170 E. Vernon Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90011
September 19, 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council Members
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Brisa Corona and I'm currently a 11th grade at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. My hobby is to dance, and I'm the tallest one from the family and the only one with curly hair. I live in a community that is never quiet, and I'm part of the Los Angeles community. In my English class we have discussed on whether Columbus Day should stay as it is or should change to Indigenous day.

I believe that the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day. Christopher Columbus should not be honored after this day because even though he did some remarkable things, that does not change the fact that he was a villain to the Native people for treating them cruel. In order to honor all the struggles the Natives went through we should name the day after Indigenous Day. For instance in the "Columbus Controversy" by History.com Staff it states, "Columbus and his men enslaved many native inhabitants of the West Indies and subjected them to extreme violence and brutality." Without doubt Columbus was mistreating the Native people. In my opinion it's unfair Columbus was treating the Natives with cruelty. Even though Columbus tried taking their land away. Columbus should not be honored or even respected. After harming many innocent people. I really feel that the Natives should be honored after Indigenous Day because of all the struggles they went through. Therefore, Columbus Day should be replaced with Indigenous Day.

I hope you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding the decision of Columbus Day being replaced by Indigenous Day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brisa Corona". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first name "Brisa" and last name "Corona" clearly distinguishable.

Brisa Corona

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Cesar Holguin and I am currently a 11th grader at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I am a member of the Huntington Park community. In the past few weeks my English class has been discussing about indigenous people and the colonist who first arrived and settled in America.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because we shouldn't celebrate a day of violence. Columbus symbolizes the violence and atrocities that were committed towards the Indigenous people. For instance, the Indigenous people were here first, so they should be recognized for their contributions to our society. There are many indigenous people in Los Angeles who would like the opportunity to celebrate their culture and pay respects to their ancestors. In the article "Columbus Controversy" by the history staff, the author states that Columbus brought new diseases to the New world which caused many people to die.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Day. Why should we celebrate a day where Columbus made people suffer? Columbus doesn't deserve his own Holiday. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cesar, Holguin

6919 Malabar St
Huntington Park
CA 90255
22 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

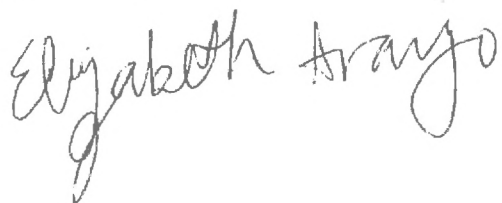
Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Elizabeth Araujo and I am a student at Alliance College Ready High School. I am an 11th Grader, and I was raised in the city of Huntington park and born in East LA. Recently my English class has been learning about the colonial times and the first encounters between the Natives and the Colonists.

The reason why I am writing this letter is because the city of Los Angeles should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because culture is better to celebrate than a violent man. Through much research we have learned that Columbus isn't the great hero he has been painted to be. For instance Columbus "used violence and slavery, the forced conversion of native peoples to Christianity, and the introduction of a host of new diseases that would have dramatic long-term effects on native people." This shows the horrible things that he did towards the indigenous people, and how poorly he treated them. We should not recognize a man who has done many bad stuff to innocent people. Columbus day should be changed because we shouldn't honor someone that done bad more than good he enslaved many native inhabitants of west indies.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding the letter that i am writing. Thank you for your time and consideration. There is many rules the government was saying.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Araujo

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Araujo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

1307 W 93rd st
Los Angeles, CA 90044
September 19, 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear, Los Angeles City Council

My name is Susana Garcia and I am and currently a junior at Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School. I feel that as a member of the Los Angeles community I have a say in things that take place in my community.

I am writing this letter to inform you on the reason why I feel that Columbus day should be replaced with Indigenous day. In my english class we have been discussing the topic and I have learned that Indigenous came to america first. They were a great part of history but why do they not get enough credit? The indigenous had a huge impact on how things are today, but everyone does not know that. I read this paper in my class that said that there was hidden truths behind lots of the history in the past. The author of the text, Marissa Fessenden, said that when she was taught about the indigenous they did not give her the whole truth. She was taught that the New England colonist did not keep Native Americans as slaves, and the truth was that they were enslaved. This evidence reveals that the history behind the indigenous was not taught correctly. In my opinion everyone should consider the indigenous people and take them into consideration. Clearly native americans are not getting the recognition they deserve. When it comes to how people wrote about how the natives where they were seen as bad people

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding changing columbus day into indigenous day. I put a lot of thought into the topic and think that this is the best option for giving credit to a culture that deserves it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susana Garcia



2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
13 september 2016

Los Angeles City Council
Council members
200 N Spring St
Los angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Sergio Aguilar I am hispanic also i am 17 years old and I am currently attending alliance collins family college ready high school. My family is astec and we hire people to dance for the virgin mary every year during celebration time.

I am writing to you because the city of los angeles should replace columbus day with indigenous day because some of the heritage that people have want to express themselves by celebrating their culture through aztec dancing like my family. For example, "dia de los murtos " is a day when we celebrate our past loved ones also we eat dulce and listen to hispanic music that represents aware culture. There fore, replacing columbous day should be replaced with indigenous day because then latin americans can celibrat their culture, including the indienous people of america

i believe we shouldn't because i know how much it would hurt people if we get rid of that bay because if anyone wants to get rid of some hispanic day it would hurt me because i am really suportored of my heritage so what i suggest is that we should have indigenous day before or after columbus day

Sincerely, sergio aguilar

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sergio Aguilar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA, 90255
September 22 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council Members
200 N. Spring St.
CA 90012

Dear, Los Angeles City Council

My name is Edwin Barillas and I am currently enrolled in Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School and, I am an 11th grader. I am vicepresident of the Student Technology Leaders (STLs), we are a leadership group and our goal is to help students incorporate technology in their life more. I also help out our school's ASB leadership group, I love to be involved in my school. The purpose of this letter is to talk about the controversial topic of replacing "Columbus Day" with "Indigenous Day." The answer is simple, combine both together.

In our city there has develop a delma of replacing "Columbus Day" with "Indigenous Day." There is a simple answer to it, and it is just combien Columbus Day" with "Indigenous Day" making it Columbus Day/Indigenous Day. This will allow to keep our valuable American history and also commemorate the Native American Indians.

In class we watched a documentary titled "We Shall Remain" by PBS, there was this part when a member of the Italian community said "it would be a slap to the face" he was saying that it would be very disrespectful to the Italian community to remove "Colombus Day" you would be taking out such a big part of our American history. The thing not having "Indigenous Day" it is a slap on the face for the Native American Indians. We are not remembering them at all but, in reality we should be thanking them too just like the pilgrims because without them the pilgrims would have died. The Indians helped keep the pilgrims alive showing them how to hunt how to plant and how to eat.

Having Columbus Day/Indigenous day will allow our future generations have a better understanding of what really happened with Pilgrims and the Native Americans. Both communities history will be known and remembered. Let's make this happen.

Sincerely, *Edwin Barillas*



2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
22 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 20012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

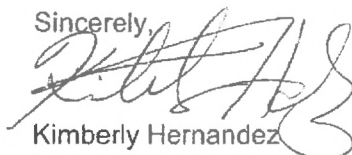
My name is Kimberly Hernandez, I attend Alliance Collins Family College Ready High-School and I am in the 11th grade. I participate in two clubs at my school which are HAM (Health and Medicine) and YBA (Youth Business Alliance). In HAM what I help do is I go get the recycling from the classroom, we also collect paper and for YBA we hear a guest speaker on how they created their company or what they do for their job.

I am writing this letter to you because I believe the Council of the City of Los Angeles should not replace Columbus day. If you change Columbus day it would affect the Italian community because many of the pilgrims that came to this new land were Italian. This would hurt the Italians pride because Christopher Columbus was the one who discovered this new land and he was Italian. He brought new traditions and customs that the Indigenous did not know about. We should not change this historical day because it was an important day in our history and it has also affected our lives.

However, they should have a day to recognize the Indigenous people for helping the Pilgrims survive in new land they knew nothing about and for their hardship. The Indigenous people helped the Pilgrims find what to eat when they saw "[an] Indian baskets filled with corn" (from of plymouth Plantation Page 11). This helped the Pilgrims survive through the winter and not starve to death because lack of resources. The Indigenous people went through some many hardships that the pilgrims caused to the Indigenous people and they had to face them. As claimed by PBS in the documentary "We Shall Remain" the Natives were mistreated, enslaved and raped despite through their courtesy to the Pilgrims. We should recognize the suffering that the Natives had to face through this time period and this historical event cannot be glossed over because it is an uncomfortable thing to speak of but everyone has the right to know what actually happened.

Thank you again for reading my letter and I hope you take in my opinion when making your decision about this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Hernandez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kimberly Hernandez

2017 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
21 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Maria Mares and I'm a junior attending Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School located in Huntington Park. I'm part of my school's cross country team. I enjoy spending time running and dancing. I have spent my 15 years of birth living in the community of Huntington park. Both of my parents are Mexican. I enjoy my family especially because of my culture.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should remain the same as Columbus Day and not be replaced to Indigenous Day because in the article "Columbus Controversy", it states "Columbus and his men enslaved many native inhabitants of the West Indies and subjects them to extreme violence and brutality." This evidence reveals how unfairly Columbus treated the Indigenous people. He would treat them in a brutal way. In addition, the article also states, how Columbus traveled "On his first voyage in 1492, Columbus landed on unknown Caribbean island after an arduous three month journey." This results that Columbus made four trips across the Atlantic Ocean from Spain. He was so determined to find a direct route west from Europe to Asia, but he never did. On the other hand, he accidentally stumbled upon in the Americas. Therefore, Columbus day should remain the same and not be replaced with Indigenous Day because Columbus lived, he had a massive impact on history. Yet, he was not celebrated as any sort of savior or hero. I believed that if anything this day is to remember Columbus' history. We should not erase history. We should embrace the real history of our nation as ugly as it can sometimes be.

I truly hope you take in mind my voice towards this act of decision taking to remain Columbus Day the exact way it is. I hope you consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding this situation of Columbus Day being replaced to Indigenous Day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Mares
Maria Mares

7023 Malabar St.
Huntington Park, CA

90255

September 19, 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council Members
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

Hello my name is Abigail Chavez and I'm in the 11th grade at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School in Huntington Park. My class has been learning about the Indigenous people and the colonist who first settled in America. Since then my interest has increased in learning more about this topic.

I'm writing to you because the City of Los Angeles Should not replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because it's disrespectful for the Colonist that created this Country and had to go through many struggles. They worked hard for it so they should leave it how it is because it is symbol of the people who were courageous enough to leave their homeland and worked hard to build the great nation we have now. For Instance, the Colonist faced a very difficult journey on the Mayflower ship to come to the new world, and many died due to illness and starvation. Their effort and struggle should not be overlooked. According to the article "Columbus Controversy" by the History.com Staff "This holiday continues to be an important way for all Americans to learn more about the Age of Exploration and the enormous transformations it provoked. This suggests that the holiday's are really important to the Americans.

Abigail Chavez

2071 Saturn Ave
Huntington Park ,CA 90255
September 19 2016

The Los Angeles city council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Omar Soto and I attend collins family college ready high school I am a junior. And I am a member of the Huntington Park community. I love helping people and making them laugh.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should not replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because it disrespects the italians because they are replacing an important event for them. For instance in the article Columbus Controversy by history channel they state "this holiday continues to be an important way for all Americans to learn more about the Age of Exploration and the enormous transformation in provoked". This means that columbus day means a lot to them because it gives them a lot of information about Christopher Columbus and I think that if they take off Columbus day it will cause emotions to italians.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding

Sincerely, Omar Soto

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
22 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Jose Zavala and I am 16 years old. I am a student in high school. A brief description about myself is that I enjoy playing with my dog and playing video games. I also enjoy playing my guitar and hanging out with friends. I live in a nice neighborhood which is located in central and wadsworth.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should remain Columbus Day with Indigenous Day. I believe that it shouldn't change Columbus Day to Indigenous Day because Columbus Day has been around for years. Although it didn't really become a holiday until 1937 people still celebrated it during the 18th century. The reason why it became a holiday in the first place is because it's honoring columbus' achievements and the Italian-American heritage. For instance, Columbus Day and the man that inspired it generated a controversy and many alternatives along the way. This is a major key towards why it shouldn't be change because a lot of people embrace the day that America was "founded".

I hope you will consider this letter when you look at any future

Jose Zavala

Freddy Romero

2071 Saturn Ave.

Huntington Park, CA 90255

(323)331-6494

Freddyromero255@gmail.com

20 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council

Council Members

200 N Spring St.

Los Angeles

CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Freddy Romero and I am currently a Junior at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I am a member of the Cross Country team and an honor student. I have a identical twin brother named Richard who also happens to be an honor student and a member of the Cross Country team.

I believe that the Los angeles should not replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day because it pays as a tribute to Christopher Columbus as very important historical figure who created a connection between the Old World and the New World. For instance, the article, "The Less Than Heroic Christopher Columbus" by Ian W. Toll states, "If Columbus have never lived, the Old and New World were destined to collide sooner or later...that collision was always going to be catastrophic for the native peoples of the Americas." This suggest that if Columbus never created the link between the Old and New World someone else would have done it. The discoverment of

6510 Regent Street Apt.B
Huntington Park, CA 90255
September 19,2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council *
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90255

To Whom it May Concern(Los Angeles City Council),

My name is Johana Cristobal, I am a 16-year-old and a formers student at Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School, I am currently in the 11th grade and my class President. I am a DACA student and proudly Mexican from Huamantla, Tlaxcala, Mexico. In my English and AP United States History class we have been focusing on the arrival of the Europeans to the to the American continent. In my english class, my teacher Mrs.Alcala, she has given us a topic on the current debate of adding an indigenous day as a holiday by replacing Columbus Day. I believe Columbus Day should not be replaced but, there should be added an Indigenous Day to the calendar.

Indigenous people of America are often forgotten of all the hardship events and injustices against them. Indigenous people have been through slavement, wipeout, and discrimination along the history of the United States of America. In addition, Columbus was the one to begin something big and important to the world and such a historical event. Although, some may argue that Columbus did terrible actions against the Native people and was not a hero, he is important to the Italian-American descendants. It is something the community is proud of, because of the link he made with the New World, and in a way allowed for us to have the world we know today. It allow the beginning of migration that in today's day is so important. According to the documentary "We Shall Remain" a PBS production the Native People and Colonist had a good relationship at a point and they helped each other. Which means not everything was bad as seen and another reason to celebrate both days. If the excuse is that Columbus Day is celebrating a man that was about violence, then we should analyze the removal of other holidays that also have not so good truths and involved violence in the creation of it.

To conclude, the city of Los Angeles should expand this idea to other cities and have more opinions, but in general none of the communities should be left out because United States of America is a country fill of immigrants. But, most important of all is to not forget who were the first ones in this land and who we have to thank for the beginning of survival. I believe the City council should approve, keeping Columbus Day and adding an Indigenous Day to the holidays.

Cordially, Johana Cristobal



90255

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA

13 september 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Nestor Lemus and I am a member of the South Gate community. I am 16 years old I can speak two languages English and Spanish. I tend to never give up on what I do until I get it right. I also am really passionate about standing up for what I believe in, and this past couple of weeks my English class has been learning about the colonial times and the natives; which has expanded my knowledge about this topic.

I am writing to you because the City of Los Angeles should not replace Columbus Day with Indigenous day because both days should just have their separate days in which they are celebrated to store peace in the communities and have equality to all people's opinions. For instance, in the article "Coulumbes Controversy" by history.com staff states "this holiday continues to be an important way for all americans to learn more about the age of exploration and the enormous transformations it provoked." Columbus Day should remain in place because it is a symbol of a new beginning for the country, and the hard work that the colonist did in order to help create the great country we have today.

However, Indigenous Day should become a new additional holiday because it is a sign of respect and peace towards indigenous people as well. This can help us reflect on the past and how both the colonists and the indigenous people were crucial to forming the Americas. For instance, in the article "colonial america dependent on the enslavement of indigenous people" By Marissa Fessenden it states " the colonial economy depended on slavery, many well-to-do households functioned only because of slavery." hence demonstrating why we should celebrate indigenous day to remember the things the indigenous people had to go through and the struggles they went through.

I hope that you will consider this letter when you look at any future action regarding this serious topic. thank you for your time and consideration.\

Sincerely, Nestor Lemus

Nestor Lemus

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
22 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Greetings Los Angeles City Council:

I am Steven De La Cruz, an 11th grade student at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I have two siblings, an older brother and a younger brother. I enjoy spending time with them after studying for my classes. When studying I usually read for my AP U.S. History class. I am currently learning about significant events that took place with the arrival of the Pilgrims in the New World. I am writing to express my opinion on why Columbus Day and Indigenous Day should both be equally recognized.

I believe that you should not replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Day, but rather have Indigenous Day on a separate day. This is because Columbus Day is important for people of Italian descent, for it brings pride to their community. Not only that, but the day marks one of the most important events in U.S. history, one of the first times the eastern hemisphere came into contact with the New World. However, the crimes that were committed against the Indians cannot be ignored. According to the documentary "We Shall Remain" by PBS, the natives were enslaved and mistreated despite their friendly welcome and their part in helping the settlers survive. The Pilgrims took advantage of the natives by offering them deals that were quite unfair, for example having them sign away their land while receiving little to nothing in return. This reveals the indifference many of the settlers had towards the natives, which eventually escalated to merciless attacks on their villages and forced religious conversion. With all these points in mind, surely the best decision to make is to create a day recognizing the suffering of indigenous people.

I am absolutely certain that people will accept Indigenous Day and that there will be no issues with it being on a separate day. I hope you will consider this letter when you begin making your final decision on the topic. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Steven De La Cruz

2071 Saturn Ave.
Huntington Park, CA 90255
13 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
City Council Members
Los Angeles Council Members
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council Members,

Hello, my name is Jesus Villarreal and I am a 11th grade student at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I am from Mexico from the state of Chiapas and so are my family members. Like any other family we incorporate Mexican traditions into the American traditions. I love the United States and its history fascinates me.

I am writing to you because I have an opinion on the decision on changing Christopher Columbus day into Indigenous day. Both Indigenous day and Christopher Columbus day signifies two types of ethnicities, which are Italian and Native American. I believe that it would be a better idea if they had two separate days so the ethnic groups would not get offended. Columbus Day represents the Italian community and officially taking it off would be offensive to their community. The reason why it is offensive to the Italian community is because Columbus was Italian and they believe that since he helped with the establishment of this country Columbus day should be recognized.

Indigenous Day represents the Native American community and not recognizing this day is offensive, too. Whenever the thought of any Native Americans come up, all you can think of is the massacres that they have been through. Going through that experience is horrifying and for people not to show any kindness is wrong. The most we can do for them is give them a day and recognize the events that they have been through.

Sincerely,



Jesus Villarreal

2071 Saturn Ave
Huntington Park, CA. 90255
19 September 2016

The Los Angeles City Council
Council Members
Los Angeles City Council Members
200 N. Springs St. Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear, Los Angeles City Council Members

My name is Maria Ramirez and I am a Junior currently at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School. I used to be a part of a campaign for the city council members and have helped my city with multiple events and is a person that is involved and interested in city decisions as well.

I am writing to you because the city of Los Angeles is making an important decision in which I Believe I should participate. The city of Los Angeles should not replace Columbus Day for Indigenous day but instead should add Indigenous Day to our calendar. If someone sailed the sea and discovered America I believe they should be recognized whether they were bad, good, Italian, Or Indigenous. But Christopher Columbus was well aware there was people who lived in the land before he claimed it. The land had been owned first by the Native Americans. That land was their home. In the text Columbus Controversy, it states, "...Columbus encountered many indigenous people throughout his voyages." This quote clearly shows that Christopher Columbus would take the indigenous peoples homes and affected them, but does this really apply to him when he discovered America? We are here because Christopher Columbus discovered the land that we are stepping on today, but we should also remember the people that had lived in this land before us. Therefore, the calendar should carry both Christopher Columbus day and Indigenous day.

I hope you consider my letter when you look at any future action actions regarding Christopher Columbus day and Indigenous Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MR' with a large loop, written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

MARIA RAMIREZ



Prot. No. 3798
Los Angeles, March 31, 2016

Consulate Generale d'Italia
Los Angeles

IL CONSOLE GENERALE

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing to convey the deep concern expressed to me by the Italian community regarding the possible abolition of Columbus Day in Los Angeles. I have received many letters expressing frustration and discouragement over the deliberation upon which the City is preparing to vote.

The critical issue at stake is that, while trying to enhance - and rightly so - the dignity of indigenous peoples, the City is poised to strip the Italian community of a celebration that has become, over time, a heartfelt expression of its identity and pride. For Italians in America, Columbus Day is mainly about their Italian heritage and their contributions to the greatness of a multiethnic, open and welcoming society.

As President Obama himself has often remarked, it is important to recall the unique contribution of the Italian and Italian-American communities toward the creation of the modern United States of America. It would be fair towards the Italians of America to find a way to separate the just and deserving commitment to be sensitive toward indigenous populations from the equally just and deserving celebration of October 12 as the Italian day in America.

Thank you so much for your attention and consideration, *for we rely on you*

Antonio Verde
The Consul General of Italy in Los Angeles
(Antonio Verde)

The Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles
200 North Spring St, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA. 90012





Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

Fwd: Important Columbus Day Update Los Angeles

2 messages

Patricia Villaseñor <patriciam.villaseñor@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 22, 2016 at 4:32 PM

To: Francisco Ortega <francisco.ortega@lacity.org>

Cc: Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>, David Giron <david.giron@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Damian Capozzola" <ddc@ddclaw.com>

Date: Jul 22, 2016 4:04 PM

Subject: Important Columbus Day Update Los Angeles

To: "Patricia Villaseñor@LAcity.org" <Patricia.Villaseñor@lacity.org>

Cc:

Ms. Villaseñor,

I understand that the Los Angeles city Council has moved to delete Columbus Day as a holiday for the city of Los Angeles. Specifically, I understand that City Councilman, Mitch O'Farrell, who claims to be part indigenous Indian American has stated, in effect, that he is offended by the idea of Columbus and that Columbus was not worthy of being honored as a historical figure, and his intention is to replace Columbus Day with "Indigenous Peoples Day." I am proud to be a Past-President of the Los Angeles Italian-American Lawyers Association, and I must express my sincere opposition to this motion.

Mr. O'Farrell is measuring Columbus by 2016 "Hollywood Movie" standards and not realistically by the world in 1492. Columbus' courage, fortitude and his effect in changing the world was truly momentous. This is political correctness gone wild. In a time when indigenous people were, in some cases scalping each other, selling each other slaves and conducting human sacrifices to the gods, no area of the world was pristine and capable of being measured by today's values.

Councilman Farrell's motion is based on an imaginary morality construct that the white man brought pestilence to the peace loving and kindly native people. It simply wasn't the whole story. Frankly, had indigenous people sailed in a boat to Spain or Italy to "discover" Europe in 1492 or 1592 or 1692 or 1792, I might be convinced otherwise. But that's not what happened. This kind of shortsightedness and rewriting of history is invalid, anti-intellectual, and does violence to historical truth. An important figure in world history and Italian-American culture should not be sanitized by an unrealistic and revisionist view of the truth.

Thank you for considering my views.

--Damian Capozzola

The Law Offices of Damian D. Capozzola

Web: www.ddclaw.com

E-Mail: ddc@ddclaw.com

Tel.: 213 533 4112

Fax: 213 996 8304

Cell: 213 448 2709

Downtown Los Angeles:

555 W. Fifth Street, 31st Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90013

South Bay:

609 Deep Valley Drive, Ste. 310

Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA

ERIC GARCETTI MAYOR

July 20, 2016

Hello Stakeholder,

The Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission would like to extend an invitation to join us for a special conversation/dialogue with members of the Los Angeles Indigenous Community and Italian American Community to discuss the Motion introduced by Council Member Mitch O'Farrell that proposes to establish an Indigenous People's Day Celebration. This motion (Item 15-1343) was introduced in November 2015 and calls on both the Los Angeles City Relations Commission and the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission to report on the historical importance and cultural impact of establishing Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City Holiday.



Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

IMPORTANT FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS FORUM

2 messages

Michalski, James <James.Michalski@smith-nephew.com>

Wed, Jul 27, 2016 at 2:25 PM

To: Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

Cc: "frankjdesantis@yahoo.com" <frankjdesantis@yahoo.com>, "marcella.tyler@csun.edu" <marcella.tyler@csun.edu>, "cambrolaw@gmail.com" <cambrolaw@gmail.com>

Hello Carolina,

I enjoyed meeting you yesterday and believe you did a nice job in arranging the meeting, and in trying to do the right thing.

Unfortunately, I believe the purpose of what the forum was designed to accomplish may not have been achieved. This in no way reflects poorly on you personally and on your efforts, or those of others in the City ostensibly trying to create a positive and productive meeting. I am very concerned, however, that while the City may have thought this forum may be useful for community-building, this was a very emotional meeting in which many of the comments made were fairly outrageous and personally insulting. You should know that many Italian-American Lawyers Association members and I all took either a full day off work (in my case because I work in Orange County) or a half-day off (for the local folks) to participate. This was done at considerable expense to each of us. Most troubling was that the Italian Government's highest officer in the West Coast, the Counsel General for Los Angeles (one step below the Italian Ambassador), who came in good faith, had to listen to grossly exaggerated claims from some hyperbolic speakers talking about Italian-Americans being "white supremacists" and "supporters of genocide" simply because they appreciate having Columbus Day as a holiday to honor Columbus's *positive* achievements.

In this regard, I found it wholly inappropriate that some forum participants were allowed to claim that current-day supporters of Columbus were themselves "supporters of racism and genocide" because we were at the forum to defend Columbus Day. I can even recall several speakers who were personally insulting members of the Italian-American community including one woman (a self-identified academic who may have even been specifically invited by the City) who went way too far by calling supporters of Columbus "white supremacists" and similar derogatory terms. When called on it by several audience members (*including some people from her own community*), she doubled down and said, yes I choose my words "very intentionally." In other words, yes, I am intentionally calling Columbus then, and his supporters, now, racists. That was grossly out of line and conduct that should have been stopped. In a forum designed to be a good faith productive exchange, there should be no tolerance for personal attacks and insults, some of which are bordering on or are actionable defamation. It was very disturbing to me to take a vacation day off work and drive through horrendous traffic for over two hours where I heard some of my Italian colleagues be personally called a "racist and a genocide-monger" - to quote one woman's representative comments made upon leaving the forum. I am particularly amazed at this since I, and every other speaker from the Italian-American community stated *unequivocally* that we support an Indigenous People's Day; we just hope that Columbus day may also be preserved. I was frankly disappointed to see that the City officials present did not make an effort to stop such outrageous comments. Allowing a forum allegedly designed to air good faith opinions to devolve into a chance for some persons to attack members of the Italian-American community as racists, which is totally without factual support or merit, is an unacceptable outcome. I doubt you will get much more involvement from those of us took off work to attend this mid-day forum on a business day, if such personal attacks are allowed to be made. I do have an interest in participating in constructive dialogue; but I have no interest in participating in a forum - at



Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

Fwd: COLUMBUS DAY

1 message

Patricia Villaseñor <patriciam.villaseñor@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 22, 2016 at 6:56 PM

To: Francisco Ortega <francisco.ortega@lacity.org>, Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joseph DiGiulio** <joe@digiuilolaw.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 22, 2016 at 5:17 PM

Subject: COLUMBUS DAY

To: Patricia.Villaseñor@lacity.org

Dear Ms. Villaseñor,

I had previously heard something about abandoning a Columbus Day celebration and actually replacing it with something called Indigenous People's Day (whatever that is intended to encompass). I took it as a joke and certainly nothing that could possibly be serious.

However, today I receive a notice that, in fact, the Los Angeles City Council will actually have some sort of a hearing on a motion that was actually, unbelievably, moved for hearing on Tuesday next. I was taken aback with disbelief that this could actually be happening? And in the City Council and not some radical offshoot single issue organization?

All I can say is, what absurdity next is in store for us?

Columbus Day is a National Holiday. Now, the little City of Los Angeles intends to remove it from this city. And, this motion is brought by an actual member of the Council!! Unbelievable.

What is the purpose of "replacing" Columbus Day with that made-up holiday? If you want it, pick another day. Why in the world is a National Holiday going to be removed by the lowly City of Los Angeles to be replaced by a holiday of its own?

The logic behind that thinking is beyond me. Yes, I am interested here because I am Italian and I am insulted. But also, in my profession, we try to see both sides, and believe me, as much as I try, I am unable to see the logic in this. Unable to see the logic as a professional lawyer of 46 years and beyond my Italian heritage influence.

The only conclusion that I can draw is that if the City Council approves this misguided motion, then neither I, nor any of my clients, associates, or friends shall



Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

Fwd: Anti- Italian and Anti- Catholic

1 message

Patricia Villaseñor <patriciam.villaseñor@gmail.com>
To: Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

Fri, Jul 22, 2016 at 4:33 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "David DiJulio" <rdd@dijuliolaw.com>

Date: Jul 22, 2016 4:21 PM

Subject: Anti- Italian and Anti- Catholic

To: "Patricia.Villaseñor@LAcity.org" <Patricia.Villaseñor@lacity.org>Cc: "Sarah Bonner" <sarah.bonner@lacity.org>, "info@lawman1.com" <info@lawman1.com>, "Joe" <Buscaino@lacity.org>

The City's proposals to delete Columbus Day are discrimination against Italians and related people of color. Just because we are dark, migrated from another country and talk a little funny does not mean that our history and traditions can be attacked and ignored. I would expect that a major City like LA would have laws against racial and cultural biases. Indeed it does, it is the policy of the LA City DCA to promote culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

Clearly, deleting a cultural holiday does not strengthen cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

R. David DiJulio

Attorney at Law

DiJulio Law Group

330 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 702

Glendale, CA 91203

[818-502-1700](tel:818-502-1700)



Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

Fwd: Important Columbus Day Update Los Angeles

1 message

Patricia Villaseñor <patriciam.villaseñor@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 22, 2016 at 4:32 PM

To: Francisco Ortega <francisco.ortega@lacity.org>

Cc: Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>, David Giron <david.giron@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Damian Capozzola" <ddc@ddclaw.com>

Date: Jul 22, 2016 4:04 PM

Subject: Important Columbus Day Update Los Angeles

To: "Patricia Villaseñor@LAcity.org" <Patricia.Villaseñor@lacity.org>

Cc:

Ms. Villaseñor,

I understand that the Los Angeles city Council has moved to delete Columbus Day as a holiday for the city of Los Angeles. Specifically, I understand that City Councilman, Mitch O'Farrell, who claims to be part indigenous Indian American has stated, in effect, that he is offended by the idea of Columbus and that Columbus was not worthy of being honored as a historical figure, and his intention is to replace Columbus Day with "Indigenous Peoples Day." I am proud to be a Past-President of the Los Angeles Italian-American Lawyers Association, and I must express my sincere opposition to this motion.

Mr. O'Farrell is measuring Columbus by 2016 "Hollywood Movie" standards and not realistically by the world in 1492. Columbus' courage, fortitude and his effect in changing the world was truly momentous. This is political correctness gone wild. In a time when indigenous people were, in some cases scalping each other, selling each other slaves and conducting human sacrifices to the gods, no area of the world was pristine and capable of being measured by today's values.

Councilman Farrell's motion is based on an imaginary morality construct that the white man brought pestilence to the peace loving and kindly native people. It simply wasn't the whole story. Frankly, had indigenous people sailed in a boat to Spain or Italy to "discover" Europe in 1492 or 1592 or 1692 or 1792, I might be convinced otherwise. But that's not what happened. This kind of shortsightedness and rewriting of history is invalid, anti-intellectual, and does violence to historical truth. An important figure in world history and Italian-American culture should not be sanitized by an unrealistic and revisionist view of the truth.

Thank you for considering my views.



Via E-mail: Patricia.villasenor@lacity.org

July 25, 2016

Patricia Villasenor
Executive Director
Human Relations Commission
City of Los Angeles

Re: Columbus Day

Dear Executive Director Villasenor:

To get rid of Columbus Day is a real bad idea.

With kind regards,

THOMAS V. GIRARDI
TVG/hc



Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

Fwd: Columbus day

2 messages

Patricia Villaseñor <patriciam.villaseñor@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 24, 2016 at 12:08 PM

To: Francisco Ortega <francisco.ortega@lacity.org>, Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Robert Robin** <robinv16@aol.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 24, 2016 at 9:38 AM

Subject: **Columbus day**

To: "Patricia.Villaseñor@LAcity.org" <Patricia.Villaseñor@lacity.org>

Please oppose this motion to disrespect American history.**Robert Robin**

Sent from my iPhone

PATRICIA Villaseñor <patricia.villaseñor@lacity.org>

Mon, Oct 24, 2016 at 11:56 AM

To: Carolina Perez <carolina.perez@lacity.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Patricia M. Villaseñor, Executive Director
Human Relations Commission &
Commissions and Community Engagement
Housing+Community Investment Department Los Angeles
1200 West 7th Street
cubicle 906 G
Los Angeles, CA 90017
patricia.villaseñor@lacity.org

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ANGELA R. RILEY
PROFESSOR OF LAW

DIRECTOR
UCLA NATIVE NATIONS LAW AND POLICY CENTER

SCHOOL OF LAW
BOX 951476
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1476
Phone: (310) 206-3760
email: riley@law.ucla.edu

August 4, 2016

Dear City of Los Angeles,

I write as Professor of Law and as the Director of the UCLA Law School Native Nations Law and Policy Center to express our strong support for eliminating Columbus Day in the city of Los Angeles, and establishing Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday of October.

Indigenous peoples – including but not limited to the Tongva, Tatavium, and Chumash - have been in what is now the City of Los Angeles since time immemorial, yet still are not adequately recognized as its first peoples. The movement to recognize them through the establishment of Indigenous Peoples Day offers you an opportunity to right this historic wrong.

Indigenous Peoples' Day has been adopted in other cities (e.g. Seattle, Minneapolis, etc.) across the country as part of a larger movement that has rejected the celebration of Christopher Columbus. Columbus is a pivotal figure in the large-scale genocide and colonization of indigenous peoples in the Americas. That he was a cruel man with little regard for the value of human life is not hyperbole; it is clearly established in his own writings. The notion that Columbus discovered the Americas is historically inaccurate. Further, the popular idea that the Americas were largely open for the taking is built on 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, rejected. Columbus' fraught legacy of enslavement, dispossession, exploitation, rape and torture should no longer be celebrated by the city of Los Angeles.

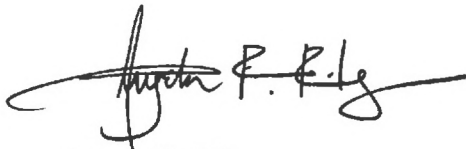
Columbus' legacy, for indigenous peoples today, continues to be one of devastation. Columbus' actions have had negative consequences that have continued through the generations and still impact Native peoples. Today, Native Americans and indigenous peoples suffer the worst outcomes on almost every socio-economic indicator of well-being – including rates of poverty, high school completion, life expectancy, gender violence, youth suicides and representation in the child welfare and criminal justice systems. Native peoples are 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 one of 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 in today's larger movement for racial equity and social justice.

We strongly urge 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela R. Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Angela R. Riley
Professor of Law
Director, Native Nations Law and Policy Center



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City Council
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles

October 19, 2016

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of the UCLA American Indian Studies Center (AISC) to express our strong support for the establishment of Indigenous Peoples' Day as an official holiday in the City of Los Angeles, and proposed by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell in Motion No. 15.1343 in November 2015. With this proposal, the Los Angeles City Council has the opportunity to provide moral leadership on a critical issue of diversity and equity. We encourage you to do so.

California is home to the largest American Indian population in the country, both in terms of absolute numbers and of tribes, with three-quarters of a million people and over 100 Federally Recognized Tribes. Add to this our seventy-nine tribes in processes of federal recognition. In the City of Los Angeles, our indigenous population includes the tribes who represent the areas First Peoples – the Tongva, Tatavium, and Chumash – as well as members of tribes from throughout the state and from other parts of the country, many of who arrived here as part of official government relocation policies. We also benefit from the presence of large populations of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and large and fast-growing populations of indigenous people from Latin America. Given these significant demographics, Los Angeles is understood as the city with the largest indigenous population in the country.

That said, the presence of indigenous people in this city, whether they have historical roots here or are products of various processes of diaphora, is often overlooked. This erasure is not a historical accident, but rather is a product of very real and overt processes of racialization over the decades. City Council can and should establish Indigenous Peoples' Day in order to arrest these processes of erasure and acknowledge the presence of a huge indigenous population of our city.

While we understand that the proposal in its current formulation does not necessarily entail converting Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day, we would argue that it is critically important to make this a part of the City Council's decision, and follow suit on the decisions taken in many other cities around the country in this regard. The reason for this is simple and indisputable, with no need for debate about the fact of Columbus' life. The straightforward fact that City Council must consider is the Columbus *symbolizes* genocide to indigenous peoples. Celebrating Columbus Day as an official holiday causes deep offense to us, and creates a form of

on-going harm. It is a form of symbolic violence that exacerbates intergenerational historic trauma for our peoples. Converting Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day is an important symbolic act that does a great deal to rectify this wrong. It is not the same as creating an Indigenous Peoples' Day on another date, as to do so would leave intact a holiday that symbolizes – indeed celebrates - the history of the attempt to annihilate us as peoples.

We are sympathetic to the desires of Italian Americans for a holiday that recognizes their contributions to this country. We support and recommend that the city consider establishing Italian American Heritage Day for the city. However, the celebration of Italian American heritage can and should be de-linked for the legacy of Columbus, which inevitably brings with it the legacy of genocide.

Last Saturday, October 15, the City of San Fernando, which has become the first city in Los Angeles County to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day, held a wonderful hemispheric indigenous celebration, in conjunction with the Fernandeano Tatavium Band of Mission Indians and the Pukúu Cultural Community Services. As a Chickasaw tribal citizen who grew up in Los Angeles, experiencing in real terms the erasure of our peoples, this event had tremendous meaning for me, moving me to tears several times in the course of the day. The celebration of our rich cultural traditions was beneficial not only to the Native people present, but to all who came and shared in the day.

The City of Los Angeles has before it the opportunity to provide leadership on this important issue. By converting Columbus Day into Indigenous Peoples' Day, you will effectively eliminate an on-going harm and generating tremendous positive impact on indigenous people, and indeed all people, in our diverse city. On behalf of the American Indian Studies Center at UCLA, I strongly urge you to do so.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Speed', with a stylized, looping design.

Shannon Speed
Director, American Indian Studies Center
Associate Professor of Gender Studies and Anthropology