


**REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

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DATE: April 27, 2018

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso   
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No.: 18-0002-S47  
Assignment No.: 18-04-063

SUBJECT: Resolution (O'Farrell – Wesson) in support of SB 1490 (Stern)

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (O'Farrell – Wesson) to include in the City's 2017-2018 State Legislative Program support for SB 1490 to rename "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples' Day" as an annual State holiday to be celebrated on the second Monday of October.

SUMMARY

SB 1490 (Stern) would rename Columbus Day to "Indigenous Peoples' Day" as an annual State holiday to be celebrated on the second Monday of October. According to the bill's author, renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day would honor "the legacy and contributions of the original inhabitants of this continent" and help "correct the record about California's history."

According to Resolution (O'Farrell – Wesson), introduced on April 18, 2018, renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day at the State level would honor the "state's heritage and the rich cultural history of Native Americans." The Resolution seeks an official position of the City to support AB 1490.

BACKGROUND

Christopher Columbus is widely attributed as being the first European to travel to the Americas whose 1492 voyage began the European colonization of America. However, Leif Erikson, a Norse explorer, is widely believed to have been the first known European to travel to America in approximately 1000 and, in 2013, President Obama declared October 9 "Leif Erikson Day." California's first celebration of Columbus Day was in San Francisco in 1869. In 1934, Columbus Day became an official federal holiday and, in 1970, Congress established its observance on the second Monday of October.

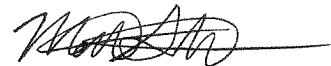
On November 13, 2015, Motion (O'Farrell – Wesson) was introduced and called for the establishment of Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City holiday. On November 21, 2017, the Council approved Ordinance No. 185261, which established Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal holiday for the City to be celebrated on the second Monday in October. The Ordinance also removed all references to Columbus Day from the City Administrative Code. Many other California cities, including Berkeley, Long Beach, Burbank, and the County, have also replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Supporters of SB 1490 include the California School Boards Association, the California Tribal College, the Inter-Tribal Council of California, the National Indian Education Association, the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations, the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, and the Tribal Trust Foundation. The California Tribal College contends that “the celebration of Columbus Day has obscured and ignored the tragic political doctrine of genocide.” According to the National Indian Education Association, “Through the establishment of Indigenous People’s Day, students in schools across the state will have the opportunity to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the state’s diverse communities and their respective cultures, languages, histories, and teachings.”

The California Italian-American Task Force opposes SB 1490, arguing that “Italian Americans have made enormous contributions to the development of California,” and that “Italian Americans celebrate their coming to America and their rich contributions to the state and nation on the Columbus Day Holiday.”

BILL STATUS

2/16/18	Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment. To print.
3/08/18	Referred to Com. on G.O.



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Matthew Shade  
Analyst

Attachments: 1. Resolution (O’Farrell – Wesson)

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS  
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2018, Senator Henry Stern introduced Senate Bill 1490 which proposes to rename "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples' Day" to be celebrated annually on the second Monday of October; and

WHEREAS, according to Senator Stern, SB 1490 is intended to strengthen Californians' bond to our shared humanity by celebrating Native American heritage and the "great cultural diversity of our state; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2015, Motion (O'Farrell-Wesson) was introduced in the Los Angeles City Council calling for the establishment of Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal City holiday; and

WHEREAS, following extensive public discussion and analysis, Motion (O'Farrell-Wesson) culminated in the approval of Ordinance No. 185261 on November 21, 2017 which created an Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal holiday for the City of Los Angeles to be celebrated on the second Monday in October, and removed from the Los Angeles Administrative Code all references to Columbus Day; and

WHEREAS, according to public information provided by Senator Stern, Los Angeles County, the cities of Santa Cruz, Long Beach, Burbank, San Luis Obispo and San Francisco, as well as 48 other cities and four states have made similar changes to rename the holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby include in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1490 to rename Columbus Day to "Indigenous Peoples' Day" as an annual State holiday to be celebrated on the second Monday of October to honor the state's heritage and the rich cultural history of Native Americans.

PRESENTED BY:



Mitch O'Farrell  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



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