



FORMAL OPPOSITION TO: Council File 15-1343  
LOS ANGELES COUNCILMEMBER MITCH O'FARRELL'S  
MOTION TO REPLACE COLUMBUS DAY,  
CELEBRATED ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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) \_\_\_\_\_