



Italian American Civic Club of Maryland Inc.
Founded in 1943 by the Honorable Thomas D'Alessandro, Jr.
1214 Saint Paul Street - Baltimore, MD 21202
November 28, 2016

Dear Mayor, Mayor Elect, and Members of the Baltimore City Council,

In agreement with the Commission for Social Justice, the anti-defamation arm of the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA), we would like to express our regret that legislation is being prepared for submission to the Baltimore City Council to designate the second Monday of October—the federal Columbus Day holiday—as Indigenous Peoples' Day. The Italian American Civic Club of Maryland which is the oldest club of its kind in the City of Baltimore is the largest organization of civic-minded Italian Americans in the state. Our mission is to promote the Italian culture, heritage, and contributions that our ancestors have made to this great country and the world. Especially mentioned in our Mission, is the commemoration of Columbus Day as a day of Italian heritage and pride.

We are extremely disappointed at the recent national trend that seeks to implement any measure that discredits Christopher Columbus and, in effect, slight the contributions that Italian Americans have made to this country and the development of western civilization as a whole. Since 1937, Columbus Day has been a federally recognized holiday that celebrates a world-changing vision.

For Italian Americans, as well as other immigrant groups who came over as oppressed masses in the early 20th century, it was Columbus who served as their champion and gave them hope of a new life, one with opportunity. Thus, for Americans of Italian descent, Columbus Day serves as an opportunity to celebrate our ancestors and the struggles they overcame to assimilate into American culture. Now it appears that other special interest groups are trying to take away the symbol of their very identity and the contributions they have made since the early 1900s. There are certainly questionable conflicting historical facts surrounding. We have also enclosed a copy of the facts about Christopher Columbus for your review. Please consider the attached facts about the true meaning of Columbus Day as you make your decision.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joseph Di Pasquale
President

Dr. Marc A. De Simone, Sr., Ph.D.,
Chairman of the Board of Governors