Save Christopher Columbus Statues

Albert Garofalo <burt.gar@outlook.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 9:08 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thank You
Burt S. Garofalo

Save Columbus

GARY COLOSIMO <gjc2873@comcast.net>

Fri 8/21/2020 9:13 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Gary Colosimo

Save Columbus

Jennifer Ferguson <jenferg101@yahoo.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 9:27 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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For months, members of the Italian IT American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian IT Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thank you,

Jen Ferguson

Save Columbus

Tony <ajt1245@comcast.net>

Fri 8/21/2020 9:27 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

2 attachments (2 MB)

Columbus doc 1.pdf; Columbus doc 2.pdf;

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission, the assault against Christopher Columbus, the man, to include the destruction of his statues must end. Allegations that precede these unjustified events are unfounded, false, and misconstrued. No justifiable evidence supports the allegations against this great and moral man.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as rioters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

It is an affront to all Americans of Italian descendant and continues the years of subtle bigotry against this group of Americans!

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. It is a Federal Holiday!

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we must protest and refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless malcontents.

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

The honorable PA Supreme Court Justice, Michael Musmanno, a son of Pittsburgh,one of our own, a patriot, a man of international reputation, fought years to dispel the false claims leveled at Columbus.

You must not allow the removal of the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. If it is removed, it will be a sure sign that Pittsburgh willingly agrees to perpetuate this continuing prejudice against American Italians.

Before you take any action, and as part of your deliberations, I invite you to read the attached article, on scholar, Professor Carol Lowery Delaney. It hope it will dispel any disparaging claims

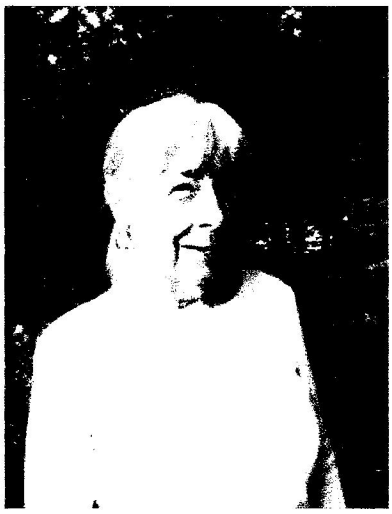
against Christopher Columbus, the man.

Sincerely,

Tony Traficante

Anthropologist says Christopher Columbus critics have their history wrong

Michael Bielawski



Vermont is on the verge of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day, but the reasons for doing so are at odds with history, says a top anthropologist and author of a book about the voyages of Christopher Columbus.

To those who support abolishing one of America's foundational holidays, Christopher Columbus, the 15th century Italian explorer largely credited with discovering the Americas, was a bad character who allegedly committed atrocities, including pillaging Native Americans and participating in slavery.

But to Carol Lowery Delaney, an anthropologist who served as assistant director of the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard, and who is a professor emerita at Stanford University and a research scholar at Brown University, that view of the explorer is pure fiction.

First of all, people know nothing about Columbus, and they are blaming him for things that he did not do," she told True North.

Earlier this month, the Vermont Legislature passed , an act relating to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Republican Gov. Phil Scott has said he will mostly likely sign it, and he as "just a day," saying "we'll get through it."
But Delaney says Vermont is yet another example of state leaders and the public getting it wrong about Columbus. As a lifetime academic who received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of Chicago and wrote the book "," she's in a position to know.
"His whole project was to sail east to meet the Grand Khan in China, set up a trading post, and trade for gold. And that gold was supposed to be used to finance a crusade to take Jerusalem back from the Muslims before the end of the world," she said.

Delaney's in-depth research into the life of Columbus included traveling to Spain, where she read original copies of his writings from more than 500 years ago.

"I was amazed when I actually held one of his letters in my hand. I thought the whole thing was gonna fall apart," she said.

Putting the late 1400s in perspective, the Black Death plague had killed millions of people, sparking widespread belief in a world-ending apocalypse. To the east, Constantinople had fallen to the Muslims, who cut off Christian pilgrimages to Jerusalem and blocked the trade

route to the Far East. Columbus wanted to find gold to fund a crusade and discover a trading route going west across the ocean.

Delaney said while Columbus was religious, he was not a greedy individual seeking to pillage or enslave indigenous people in the Americas. He never owned slaves.

"He was friends with the natives he met [and] he remained friends with them throughout his four voyages," Delaney said. " ... He took six of them back and they were baptized, and baptized people could not be enslaved. One of them became the godson of Columbus and remained his loyal interpreter for all of his voyages."

Battles with local indigenous people did occur, however. After Columbus arrived and made a voyage back to Spain, he left a crew of 39 men behind with instructions not to mistreat the native Americans.

"So he gets back from Spain and all of his men are dead," Delaney said.

When the explorer returned to Hispaniola, he found his fort and men destroyed by the native Taino people. In some cases his own men were to blame for mistreating the people living around the various settlements.

"They had went against his orders 'Do not go marauding, do not go raping, do not go pillaging.' Columbus was friends with the chief there and his whole group of people. Columbus was furious about what his men had done," Delaney said.

If Scott signs the bill, the second Monday in October will become Indigenous Peoples' Day, no longer the famous American holiday celebrated for centuries as Columbus Day. Similar bills have become law in New Mexico, South Dakota and Maine.

"This is a great travesty," Delaney said. "From his writings and all the research that I've done about him, I've actually come to like [Columbus] very much."

She added that she has no problem with creating a separate day to recognize indigenous people, so long as it doesn't replace Columbus Day.

"I think people are feeling politically correct that we should be paying more attention to the indigenous people," she said. "That's a good point, I have no problem with that."

Save Columbus

dmf1417@aol.com <dmf1417@aol.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 11:43 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

As a proud, full blooded Italian-American, I want to say that my grandparents came to this country not being able to speak English, and managed to be happy and abided by the laws of America. They provided a lively hood for their families and taught us the true meaning of unity, commitment, pride and compassion.

Sincerely,

Dianne M. Frate

Save Columbus Statue

Patricia Vanek <mpvanek@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 11:45 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

This means a lot to me as a member of ISDA who went to Cleveland City Council last year to fight to keep the celebration of Columbus Day in our community. Plus, I have numerous family members in and from PA who feel the same.

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

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Thank you,

Pat Vanek
mpvanek@gmail.com
440-759-6510

Save Columbus

James Simler <JSimler@se-env.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 12:12 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

Cc: Elise Carson <ecarson@orderisda.org>; Sandi <sms1217@verizon.net>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues are outrageous.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We were in the Columbus Day Parade every year with John Cigna, (The Cigna Riders), and we saw how important it was to Bloomfield and the rest of the community. BLM and the LGBTQ should not be the only ones with the right to celebrate their heritage or status. There are other people that should have a say also. Pittsburgh is a melting pot of heritage and customs, and EVERYONE should have the right to celebrate that. My Italian mother told me the horror stories about the prejudice she was subjected to growing up. My family is also proud members of the ISDA.

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

James Simler & Family

Save Columbus

Ashley Lentz <alentzccla@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 12:27 PM

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Keep the Columbus Statue

Mark DeNunzio <denunziodds@yahoo.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 1:08 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Pittsburgh Arts Council,

Please keep the Columbus Statue in Schenley Park. It is a symbol to not only Italian Americans but all Americans of the discovery of the New World.

Let us celebrate Columbus as a pioneer who embodied the bold spirit of discovery.

Despite what some historian may say, please do your own research and do not rely on one man's flawed view of this great explorer's character. Why was Columbus revered for 500 years and continues to be celebrated in most other countries, but now is viewed by some in this country with disdain.

I realize during these hectic days with emotions running high it is sometimes difficult to step back from the uninformed rhetoric of the vocal few to see true reality. It is easy to be swayed by the loud minority who are trying to rewrite history. My suggestion is to use due diligence and thorough research to make an informed decision.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark DeNunzio, D.D.S.

Save Columbus

JOHN COLOSIMO <j.colosimo627@comcast.net>

Fri 8/21/2020 1:09 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; smith@pittsburghpa.gov <smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

John Colosimo
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Save Columbus Statue

Jeffrey Hall <jeffhall2020@yahoo.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 1:22 PM

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Regards,
J.M. Hall

Save Columbus!

Al Ragazzo <alragazzo@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 2:16 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Save Columbus

Michelle <kikkidee@comcast.net>

Thu 8/20/2020 9:01 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Best regards,

Michelle D'Errico Stovka

Save Columbus

Anthony Andreoli <anthonyandreoli@gmail.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 9:28 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

I am writing regarding the upcoming decision to possibly remove the Christopher Columbus statue from Schenley Park. I have witnessed the denigration of Columbus coupled with historical distortion and ask you to protect this statue.

Christopher Columbus represents several American virtues: perseverance, the spirit of adventure, courage, and entrepreneurship. His story is inspiring. He spent years trying to convince Spanish monarchs to support a voyage that ultimately bridges the new and old world. He overcame countless obstacles and hardships, and is an example to those who aspire to do what others think impossible.

Further, Columbus is regarded as the prime historical representative and hero of Italian-Americans across the country. Removing his statue is an insult and degradation of our ancestry and heritage. If the ostensible purpose behind this potential removal is "social justice" it certainly will not be accomplished by denigrating another group that endured ethnic slights and violence.

Creating a template in which any person's misdeeds are an excuse to erase this person or their accomplishments from history will result in few accomplishments to celebrate. We do our society a disservice by making villains of all who conducted themselves in a way contemporary society judges differently. Instead of dwelling on what Columbus did wrong we should focus on what he did right, and how those acts shaped America in a positive fashion. His virtues could continue to shape our society in a positive way and should be celebrated.

Kind regards,
Anthony Andreoli

Save Columbus Statue

John Del Duca <johndelduca12@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 7:18 AM

To: Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Save Columbus

Deborah Catlin <debrahu@aol.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 7:32 AM

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this or any other history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thank you,

Deborah Catlin
A friend of
Kat Gates-Skipper,
A proud Italian American

👉Save Columbus

Joan Lewis <jlewisfamily@icloud.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 7:37 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission,

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.
For months, members of the Italian IT American community and white American communities have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.
Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian IT Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.
The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve the Italian American history and heritage that were fought and died for.
If such as the removal of statues continues there will be fewer pieces of art or culture for all citizens to enjoy. Next will be the paintings, and books, it will not stop at the monuments. Please take this request seriously as all art and history is in danger of becoming extinct.
Please cast your vote as “no” to the removal of the statue and stand up for the artifacts that remain before we have no American history left. Take back America and what we have taken a stand for over the years. Soon it will be all wiped out before our very eyes. All of history needs to learn from our past that is being celebrated. We are all equal and should keep all reminders of our past. Then as we move forward celebrate each other and the things that brought us to this great moment in time, a free America where we can proudly express ourselves without fear of our work through art being destroyed.
Thank you for considering my request to not remove the statue.

Sincerely,
Joan Lewis,
An American Citizen of
the United States of America

SAVE COLUMBUS

Theresa Proviano <TProviano@npcregistration.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 8:53 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; kaitly.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov <kaitly.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against fierce prejudice and widespread violence Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of this holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

I urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that many of our ancestors fought and died for.

Sincerely,

Theresa Asturi Proviano

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Save Columbus Statue

Lucci, Judge Eugene <Judge.Eugene.Lucci@lakecountyohio.gov>

Fri 8/21/2020 8:55 AM

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judge Eugene A. Lucci
General Division
Lake County Common Pleas Court
47 North Park Place
Painesville, OH 44077
Phone 440.350.2100
Fax 440.350.2210
Email JudgeLucci@LakeCountyOhio.gov
Web http://www.LakeCountyOhio.gov/cpcgd/

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SAVE COLUMBUS

Robert Yuko <k.yuko@sbcglobal.net>

Fri 8/21/2020 8:57 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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#ALL LIVES MATTER!

Karen M. Yuko, Member
Italian Sons & Daughters of America
Avanti Amerita Lodge #133
Cleveland, Ohio

Save Columbus and more...

Lou & Jody Caracciolo <ljcaracciolo@embarqmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 4:04 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; robertcharland@pittsburghpa.gov <robertcharland@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against ALL statues must end, particularly Christopher Columbus! For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled, vandalized, or disgraced Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at that time. The mass lynching of eleven Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against any/all discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to vote to safeguard the Schenley Park Columbus statue in it's present location, and preserve our history and heritage that we've fought and died for. Thank you!

Louis Caracciolo
The Dalles, OR 97058

Save Columbus

WWC Ltd. <ciambrone@sbcglobal.net>

Fri 8/21/2020 4:25 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Angelo A. Ciambrone

Save Columbus Statue!!!

Carol C <carolc_234@yahoo.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 4:26 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; robertcharland@pittsburghpa.gov <robertcharland@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to vote to safeguard the Schenley Park Columbus statue in it's present location, and preserve our history and heritage that we've fought and died for.

Thank you!

Carol Caracciolo
Moon Township, PA

Save Christopher Columbus Statue

ENDePersis Consulting <info@endepersis.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 3:16 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

Christopher Columbus not only discovered America (which all of us, not just Italian Americans, should be proud of) but he advanced the science of navigation to new heights. What courage he displayed in the face of the nay-sayers to sail on the journey which led to the discovery of our country. You can honestly say he defied the politically correct attitude of his day and fearlessly adhered to his own vision. He certainly did not cower behind stagnation because it was the politically correct thing to do. He was a very brave man and one who should be emulated, not cast aside like an old shoe; so as to be politically correct. The same courage was displayed by the founders of our country and the authors of the constitution. The politically correct thing to do at that time was to bow down to the British, pay their absorbent taxes, accept the demeaning rules imposed and to act the coward as displayed by many of today's governing bodies.

To any commission member with an Italian name, stand for Christopher Columbus. If Columbus had not discovered America, your family would have had the burden of living the oppressive life your forefathers recognized as unsuitable. They recognized that there was a better world in this country, discovered by the great Italian Navigator, Christopher Columbus. Your forefathers displayed the courage to want to better themselves and lives of their descendants. They had the courage and conviction to follow Columbus' route. Their action was not politically correct. Get real education. Don't be a naïve politically correct sop. Realize what it means to be an Italian American, and the pride it should bring you.

The six sons of my father and mother all served in the U.S. Military to defend our country. Three in World War II; and three in the Korean War. We were proud to serve to defend our country and we love the USA. We are all extremely proud that our parents followed the trail blazed by the Great Navigator to the USA, one hundred years ago.

Don't tarnish the achievements of Christopher Columbus.

Sincerely and Fraternally Yours,

Edward U. DePersis

/kle

Manor Oak Two, Suite 980

1910 Cochran Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15220-1203

(412) 343-7077

Save Columbus

Michael Slattery <mikeslattery1@comcast.net>

Fri 8/21/2020 3:37 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and I refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
I urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage.

Regards,
Michael Slattery
116 Gateway Dr, Pittsburgh, 15237

Stop the assault on the Italian Community

Eric Johnson <ecjohnson4242@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 3:17 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by a few protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve the history and heritage that our Italian friends fought and died for.

--

Eric Johnson
1405 Riverview Drive
Verona PA 15147-2001
412-860-0394 (ph)

Christopher Columbus Statue

Katie Sikorski <kdworek5@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 9:13 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Regards,
Katie L. Sikorski
412-216-7828

Save Columbus

Nick DePersis <nick@endepersis.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 9:31 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Sincerely and Fraternally Yours,

Nick DePersis, President

ENDePersis

Fraternal Consulting, LLC

/kle

Manor Oak Two, Suite 980

1910 Cochran Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15220-1203

(412) 343-7077

Save Columbus Statue!!

rlgaiani@aol.com <rlgaiani@aol.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 9:47 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.go <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.go>

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The assault against Christopher Columbus statues **must end.** For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief and horror as protesters and rioters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time.
The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for. Stop this nonsense!

SAVE COLUMBUS!!!!!!

Karen <kconr@comcast.net>

Fri 8/21/2020 10:16 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Regards,

Karen Cuozzo Connor

"The value of our lives is determined by what we do for others".

Columbus Statue at Schenley Park

Roberto Ferragina <robferragina@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 10:20 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save this statue, and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Roberto Ferragina M.A., M.A.S

Columbus Statue

Donadam <donadam@aol.com>
Fri 8/21/2020 10:24 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

August 21, 2020

City of Pittsburgh Art Commission
200 Ross Street
4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Commissioners:

As the National Chaplain for the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy of America (OSDIA) and in the name of our Commission for Social Justice, the anti-defamation arm of our Order, I would like to express my sincere disappointment that the removal of Schenley Park's Columbus statue is under your consideration. I beg you to consider, as we inform our consciences in these socially charged days, that all lives matter and can be equally honored without offense.

Christopher Columbus, whose life narrative has been grossly distorted of late, has been the symbol through which we Italian-Americans have celebrated our ethnicity. In fact, it is so symbolic that Columbus Day was first proclaimed a national celebration by President Harrison in response to the eleven Italian immigrants lynched in New Orleans in 1891—the largest lynching in United States history. That was able to occur because all lives did not matter at that time.

Half a century later, the United States Government chose Columbus Day of 1942 as the day to formally remove the "enemy alien" designation that was applied to Italian immigrants during World War II. So in simply considering to remove the Columbus statue from your city is an insult to the heritage and history of Americans of Italian descent.

I urge you all to preserve this symbol of our heritage that has been a significant part of your great city's history. Allow the Columbus's statue to remain where it is. As such you honor the contributions we have made to this country, your city and the symbolic value of Columbus that reflects all lives matter!

Sincerely,

Father Adam Forno

The Rev. R. Adam Forno, National Chaplain OSDIA

Save Columbus

Robin Feltman <rfeltman@ptd.net>

Fri 8/21/2020 6:17 PM

To: 'Robin Feltman' <rfeltman@ptd.net>

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I am not an Italian American but I understand the concerns of this community regarding the assault on Christopher Columbus and agree with them. In addition, I am offended by a relentless assault on HISTORY. We should not be erasing people who helped create our country, any more than we should be judging their actions based on the (hopefully) higher and continually evolving standards of the modern era. We need to consider Columbus in the context of his time and place, and judge him against his peers—not the against what we NOW know to be right or wrong. If Columbus, who will be next? Thomas Jefferson, who owned slaves and had black children? George Washington? Where will it end? Will we have any history left? And then what? The cliché of not forgetting history lest you repeat it is worth keeping in mind here.

I really never imagined I would have to tell anyone such a thing. It seems just so incredibly obvious.

Robin Feltman
Agent/Broker
18th Street Financial Services
21 North Market Street, STE 1
Selinsgrove, PA 17870
(570) 374-4788
rfeltman@ptd.net

Save Columbus

Carol Polsinelli <polsinellic@gmail.com>

Sat 8/22/2020 5:47 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission: The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Statue of Christopher Columbus Pittsburgh

butterfly <angelhair1322@yahoo.com>

Sat 8/22/2020 9:46 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I am a child of Italian immigrants who came to America in 1914 for a better live. They worked hard and enjoyed a happy and productive life style.

Why shouldn't I be proud of my heritage and Christopher Columbus who was the "Faithful Navigator". He was a man of 'the times'.

Why in the great country all of a sudden, Christopher Columbus becomes a 'target' when the entire country is in turmoil.

Remember: the good we do .... is often misunderstood just like Columbus is 'used at this time in history. Why? For no reason but

discrimination.

Come join us in Belleville and Nutley, New Jersey and enjoy our Columbus Day Parade in October.

Please leave the Columbus statue in place. It is a sign of strength of character for all of Italian American heritage.

God bless America!

Eleanor Guarino
New Jersey member of UNICO and Italian American One Voice Coalition .....proud daughter and family Italian 1914 immigrants....

I support KEEPING the statue of Christopher Columbus

Anthony Mallama <anthony.mallama@gmail.com>

Sat 8/22/2020 9:59 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>

The statue is a symbol of Italian-American heritage and cultural diversity.

Columbus Statue in Schenley Park

Douglas Marvin <dbmafm@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 7:15 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Better think again.
Removing this statue will accelerate our area's downward slide into becoming a Politically Correct Nonsense Zone.
Better think again.

Douglas Marvin
Lifetime Allegheny County Resident

Columbus Statue

Linda Novelli <lindanovelli16@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 8:27 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:
The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.
For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.
Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.
The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

I am appalled by this nonsense and controversy over the statues of Columbus. I have always been proud of my Italian American heritage but now find myself much less proud of my American heritage. Within a handful of years of arriving in this country, my family members fought in EVERY war to defend American freedoms. This is a SLAP in the face to every Italian American.

I urge you to think before you vote on this issue.

Linda Novelli

Statue

Mary Anne Santoro <masccca@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 8:37 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.
Sincerely,
Mary Anne Santoro

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

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Regards,
Kathy Keyes
tkkeyes@comcast.net

Save Columbus

Nicholas Marconi <avantiamerita@yahoo.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 11:27 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; theresa.kailsmith@pittsburghpa.gov <theresa.kailsmith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Nick Marconi
President
Avanti Amerita Lodge #133 of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America

Save Christopher Columbus Statute

David Barton <djbarton@bentzlaw.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 11:32 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: James Mullen <jr.marine@hotmail.com>

Dear Arts Commission:

I am writing in support of keeping the statute of Christopher Columbus as it is presently situated. A work by noted sculptor Frank Vittor, the statute was intended to, and does currently honor, one of the great explorers of the World and the heritage of Italian-Americans in Pittsburgh. The long-standing recognition of Columbus Day, for over 100 years, is itself a part of our own heritage.

I separate the current trend of removing or relocating statutes into two main groups: those such as Confederate Generals who led treasonous activities against our country (whose relocation I approve of; they were mainly erected in the years following the Civil War in an attempt to reframe the war as one to preserve Southern lifestyle); and others where the subject can be perceived to have slighted some group of Americans. It is in this latter group that the efforts to remove the Christopher Columbus statute fall.

Of course, no person is without sin. George Washington, "the father of our country," was himself a slaveowner. Seeking to remove statutes of Washington, or Columbus, is a simplistic response to our complex history. The lesson than people can be multi-faceted, and do good – as well as bad – is one that we need to cultivate in society today. Our culture has evolved into an all-or-nothing ethos. We can disagree on policy issues and be respectful of other persons.

Removing our Columbus Statute won't change what happened in 1492 or thereafter. But it will dishonor our Italian-American community members whose culture looks upon Columbus in many ways as a role model. Please keep this statute where it is.

Thanks,
David Barton

Columbus Statue

Vincent Sarno <nyg700@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 11:34 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

When is enough enough Columbus never killed american armed forces member, never captured settlers and enslaved their captives. Yet we blame him for everything he never reached our shores on his historic sailing so he never harmed Native Amerians.

Regarding the Columbus Statue in Schenley Park

Miles Fisher <Mfisher@osia.org>

Fri 8/21/2020 9:49 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

1 attachments (3 KB)

image005.emz;

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUS
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in A
219 E Street, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 2c
(202) 547-2900 • (202) 546-8168 (FAX) • ww

August 21, 2020

City of Pittsburgh Art Commission
200 Ross Street
4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Commission for Social Justice, the anti-defamation arm of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA)—the largest and oldest organization representing Italian-American men and women—I would like to express our regret that the removal of Schenley Park's Columbus statue is under consideration.

For centuries, Christopher Columbus has been the symbol through which we Italian Americans have celebrated our ethnicity. In fact, it is so symbolic that Columbus Day was first proclaimed a national celebration by President Benjamin Harrison in response to the 11 Italian immigrants lynched in New Orleans in 1891—the largest lynching in United States history. Half a century later, the United States Government chose Columbus Day of 1942 as the day to formally remove the "enemy alien" designation that was applied to Italian immigrants during World War II. So as you can see, in simply *considering* to remove the Columbus statue from your city is an insult to Italian and Italian-American heritage and history.

We urge you to preserve Italian heritage that is a significant part of your great city's history by ensuring that Columbus's statue remains exactly where it stands.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Ferrito

President, Commission for Social Justice
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

CC: Nancy DiFiore Quinn, National President, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America
Joe Marino, State President, State Lodge of Pennsylvania
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America Supreme Council
Commission for Social Justice Board of Directors, Voting Members, and Resource Persons
Bill Peduto, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

The Columbus Statue Located at Schenley Park

Sirius Sales Mgt <info@siriussalesmgt.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 10:41 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save this statue, and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thanks,

SIRIUS SALES MANAGEMENT, L.L.C.

P 732.245.6135 F 732.443.4233

Einfo@siriussalesmgt.com

W www.siriussalesmgt.com

Save the Christopher Columbus Statue

george.franzjr@gmail.com <george.franzjr@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 11:10 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To: Pittsburgh Art Commission et. All:

Please don't let yourselves get caught up now in the craziness that was sweeping our nation weeks and months ago. Soon, it will be on to something else. However, all the hasty decisions made now to be politically correct cannot be reversed. You do know that Christopher Columbus was an explorer who never stepped foot on the land of our United States…right. However, his courage and boldness has been used by many Italian Americans and other organizations (Knight of Columbus) as the character to strive for as you go forward.

Please let your common sense remind you that we can't change history or the past, however, by making the decision to keep Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park we can use this as a point of discussion of what was good and what was bad in the time of Columbus and now.

I'm hoping you will choose the "good" path.

George Franz
724-772-0494
george.franzjr@gmail.com

Save the Columbus Statue

potompub@aol.com <potompub@aol.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 11:06 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Columbus Statue

Dr. Joseph Cillo <jecdna@aol.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:18 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; ecarson@orderisda.org <ecarson@orderisda.org>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thank you,

Joseph E. Cillo, Jr.,

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Amerigo Vespucci Society
285 Willow Avenue
Long Branch, NJ 07740

Founded 1875
Incorporated 1893

August 20, 2020

Art Commission
c/o The Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Pittsburgh Art Commission,

On behalf of the Executive Board of The Amerigo Vespucci Society (AVS) of Long Branch New Jersey, it has been brought to our attention that the Pittsburgh City Council is convening next week to discuss the fate of the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

The false narrative sweeping our nation regarding Columbus, while historically inaccurate according to countless global historians and primary sources from the age of exploration, contributes to the many lies and assumptions regarding the history of Columbus. Socialist revisionist historians such as Howard Zinn could not have imagined that their efforts would be aided by, of all people, democratically elected politicians. It also contributes to the far-left movement to erase history and remove statues of historic figures. The AVS is united in our stance behind the positive symbolism of Columbus which represents the age of exploration, the positive Judeo-Christian influence upon the Americas and the establishment of European modernity which has led to this magnificent nation of immigrants, the United States of America.

Columbus statues being removed across this nation has certainly offended the Italian American community while fueling the cancel-culture movement. It indirectly empowers those who believe Columbus and all other historical figures should be erased from history and removed from public spaces. While it is currently in vogue to denigrate historical figures and remove statues and monuments, this sets a very dangerous precedent. Historical figures such as Christopher Columbus, Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington, and even abolitionists Frederick Douglas, Matthias Baldwin, and John Greenleaf Whittier have found themselves and their monuments and accomplishments under attack. To remove statues is an attempt to erase history which has proven to be the surest path to it being repeated. To try and rationalize the removal of one statue or monument must be realized to be discriminatory and cannot be tolerated unless it is going to be applied to all statues and monuments without regard to race, creed, color, religion, ethnicity or any other basis.

Our organization is the oldest Italian American mutual aid society in the nation. Our history dates back to 1875. We are just one of many ethnic organizations that have raised private funds to erect and donate historic statues and monuments throughout the nation over the years. The vast majority of these structures resulted from donations, most of which were immigrants or first-generation Americans. People from very modest financial means.

SOCIETA - AMERIGO VESPUCCI
LONG BRANCH, NJ
FOUNDED 1875
INCORPORATED 1893

Amerigo Vespucci Society

285 Willow Avenue
Long Branch, NJ 07740

Founded 1875
Incorporated 1893

(Continued from page 1)

Columbus is an iconic symbol for Americans of Italian extraction whose ancestors fled horrible treatment and abject poverty in their homeland. Columbus represents the struggles, accomplishments, and discrimination's against Italians upon their arrival to this nation and subsequent times thereafter, such as the internment of Americans of Italian heritage during the Second World War. Columbus monuments and parades brought dignity during a period when Italian Americans suffered rampant racism, discrimination and marginalization. There are many examples of horrible atrocities inflicted upon the Italian American community throughout this nation's history; injustices that our government foisted on Italian Americans. For example, in 1891 eleven innocent Italian Americans were lynched in the largest lynching in this nation's history. This atrocity was only recently acknowledged, in 2019, with a public apology by Mayor Cantrell of New Orleans. There is also the historic tragedy of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti who were executed for murder by the state of Massachusetts in 1927 on the basis of doubtful ballistics evidence. There are many other examples, including the vast discrimination toward Italian immigrants experienced for being "too dark", Catholic, uneducated, and for not speaking the English language. Today Italian Americans continue to be portrayed negatively in the media and in Hollywood. The examples are countless.

Columbus statues and monuments were erected not only as atonement for the many injustices levied on Italian Americans throughout history but to acknowledge the courage and perseverance of the individual and his great scientific achievement which affected all humanity and changed the world. The symbol of pride and atonement to Italian Americans should remain intact for generations to come for the long-lasting contributions of Italian Americans to this great nation, The United States of America.

It is our request, hope, desire, and expectation that you save the Columbus monument in Schenley Park that was built by Italian-born Pittsburgh resident Frank Vittor in 1958. We defend the importance and preservation of history and stand behind the many individuals and organizations throughout this tri-state and this great nation that appreciate the significance of Christopher Columbus as well as the appreciation of monuments and statues throughout the nation so that future generations could learn from them. It is in our interest to fight to preserve and protect the legacy of Columbus and our overall great heritage, and also the vast history of this great nation.

Sincerely,

The Amerigo Vespucci Society of Long Branch New Jersey

Joseph Sirianni

Joseph Sirianni – Amerigo Vespucci Society President

Joseph Mossa

Joseph Mossa – Amerigo Vespucci Society Vice President

CC: AVS Legal Counsel
CC: ISDA of Pittsburgh

Save the Shenley Park Columbus Statue

Desirae Sanders <dsanders@orderisda.org>

Fri 8/21/2020 2:47 PM

To: Elise Carson <ecarson@orderisda.org>
Cc: Alyssa Brown <abrown@post-gazette.com>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; Councilman Cohill <blake.playchak@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Wood, Daniel <daniel.wood@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Murray, James <james.murray@pittsburghpa.gov>; Councilwoman Smith <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.>; Yonan, Emilie <emilie.yonan@pittsburghpa.gov>; Karen Kane <kkane@post-gazette.com>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Tom Bickert <tbickert@post-gazette.com>

Italian
Sons and Daughters
of America
We are Italian America.

Dear Commissioners:

The Italian Sons and Daughters of America (ISDA) was founded in the City of Pittsburgh by Italian immigrants in 1930. The organization still maintains its national headquarters in its home office at 419 Wood St. The ISDA has grown to become one of the largest Italian American fraternal associations in America. There are some 12,000 ISDA members in Allegheny County, many of whom reside in the City of Pittsburgh.

The idea of erecting a monument in Pittsburgh to honor Christopher Columbus was discussed as early as 1909 by the city's Italian immigrants. In 1925 earnest efforts were made to attempt to collect the $65,000 that the Italian American community needed to fund the cost of the statue. Over the years these immigrants struggled to gather meager contributions from their poor brethren throughout the city, many of whom were members of the ISDA. It was not until 1956 that they finally reached their goal, and construction of the statue began. The dedication of the statue took place on October 12, 1958. The Mayor of Pittsburgh and the Italian Ambassador both spoke to the crowd of several thousand immigrants who were in attendance. The President of Italy and the Mayor of Genoa also participated through a radio greeting. This was a day filled with pride and dignity for Pittsburgh's Italian immigrant community which had struggled for decades to gain a degree of acceptance in America.

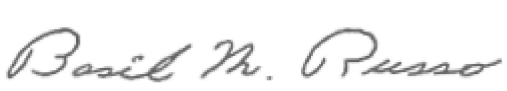
The Italian immigrant experience in America literally began with our country's largest mass lynching. In 1891 a mob of 10,000 beat, shot and hung eleven Italian immigrants in New Orleans for an alleged crime that they that had stood trial for, and none had been found guilty. Several subsequent lynchings followed. Anti-Italian bigotry reared its ugly head again nationally with the Sacco Vanzetti trial in 1921, and again with the alien enemy designation of 600,000 Italian nationals living in the U.S. during World War II. The gradual assimilation of Italian Americans into mainstream America did not even begin until well after World War II.

Throughout that entire time, the only symbol that Italian immigrants and their children were able to cling to, as a source of pride and accomplishment, was Christopher Columbus. Since the 1880's they have held Columbus Day Parades, and erected Columbus statues, as a way of honoring their heritage and displaying their pride in America. Columbus is their hero and their abiding connection to their acceptance in America.

And now, after over 500 years, certain individuals have emerged who are intent on rewriting American history to conform with their own misguided social and political agendas. And in order to do so, they are attempting to destroy Columbus' legacy with false narratives by using emotionally charged terms such as genocide, slavery and hostility toward Native Americans when describing him. None of these allegations are based on historical facts. In fact, several books and treatises have been written in recent years that expose the lies about Columbus that have gained acceptance among many people in our country. Two such books are: *Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem,* by Carol Delaney, and *Debunking Howard Zinn,* by Mary Grabar. These books, along with articles by other distinguished historians, are finally rightfully restoring Columbus' legacy.

As you consider the fate of the Columbus statue in Schenley Park, you need to appreciate the rich and emotional historical connection the statue has to Pittsburgh's Italian American community. And you further need to evaluate the egregious insult you would be inflicting on that community should you choose to succumb to the demands of those who have no respect for the Italian American community, and the important role Columbus played in helping them attain the American dream. We all need to remember that Christopher Columbus' bold journey opened the door to more than 500 years of immigration by people from around the world seeking a better life for their families. That is his legacy. He has earned his place of honor in Schenley Park.

Sincerely,



Basil M. Russo
National President
Italian Sons and Daughters of America

CC: William Peduto, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh
Councilpersons, City of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Save Columbus Statue

PHILIP MERILLI <pgmpennst@aol.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:26 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: PGM HOME <pgmpennst@aol.com>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:
The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.
For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.
Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.
The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that our forefathers fought and died for!!

Save Columbus statues

Ruthtony <adimare855@yahoo.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:32 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park

Save Columbus

Vickey Cantal <vickeycantal@gmail.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:45 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission: The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Vickey Cantal
vickeycantal@gmail.com
(708)452-6438
Save Columbus Save Columbus
Treasurer
I.A.N.U. Foundation, Midwest District

Save Columbus

Tom Tambellini <tom@aiminfonet.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:53 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Tom Tambellini

Save Columbus Statue

LUCY FOLINO <lucyfolino@aol.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:59 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Respectfully,

Lucy Folino
Sewickley, PA native

Save Columbus

lidia <astigroup2@gmail.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 6:00 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: lidia brillon <astigroup2@gmail.com>

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Please be sensitive of our Heritage and not destructive of it just to please the mob.
--
Lidia Brillon

Christopher Columbus and his statue

Geraldine Gazzara <gerrygazzara@verizon.net>

Sat 8/22/2020 10:31 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Honorable Governor,

The city of Pittsburgh and Italian American citizens have so much in common. It is first of all the city where our great constitution was born of great danger and heroism on the part of our patriots! Why the Liberty Bell is lovingly ensconced therein!
Then there are the beloved sports teams that we pray one day will be able to play before actual fans: The Pittsburgh Pirates, The Pittsburgh Steelers and let us not forget The Pittsburgh Penguins.
Who can omit the great Italian section, Little Italy, where great food and delicacies abound!
The thought of the Philly Cheesesteak sandwich just makes my mouth water!
I entreat you, Honorable Governor, to give your blessings to keeping the Statue of Christopher Columbus in place as a tribute to the courage and determination he displayed in undertaking his grand endeavor in the face of insurmountable obstacles both human and natural.

Very truly yours,
Geraldine Gazzara
13441 57th Avenue
Flushing, New York 11355

Sent from my iPad

Save Columbus

Anthony Pultrone <apultrone1701@gmail.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 6:40 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thank you.

Save Columbus

Nick Wytiaz <nwytiaz@gmail.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 6:52 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage for which we fought and died.

Thank you for your consideration and God Bless,

Nick

--

Nick Wytiaz
II Pre-Theology Seminarian
Diocese of Pittsburgh
2900 Noblestown Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205-4227
(412) 525-2053

Save Columbus

Vernetta <vmgaiani@aol.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 7:21 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Sincerely,

Vernetta Gaiani

Save Columbus

Peg Lombardi <lombardipeg@yahoo.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 8:27 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; reverand.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov <reverand.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Sincerely,

Paul Lombardi

Save Columbus

Poppy Johnson <poppyjohnson1@hotmail.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 8:29 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Thank You,
Brent Johnson
Pittsburgh, PA

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

HOTEL ASTORIA
ST PETERSBURG

Pittsburgh Art Commission, 6/30/2020

I am writing to state my strong opposition to any attempt to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park. The statue and the pedestal are of fine craftsmanship and deserve to be seen by the public. To put them into a museum would be to deny them to those members of society who cannot afford the fee to enter a museum like the Carnegie Art Museum.

While Columbus's legacy is checkered, his significance in the creation of the U.S.A. cannot be debated. Furthermore, Columbus remains an important hero in the Italian-American community of Pittsburgh and the U.S. at large.

This petition to remove the statue is not being put forward by individuals with a personal connection to the struggles of American Indians, but by professional activists who are in opposition to every aspect of the United States (both good and bad). To yield to their demands now would open up the possibility for them to cast other historical figures with a stronger Pittsburgh connection, like Henry Clay Frick or George Westinghouse, into obscurity for their past misdeeds. These activists would like to see all the good these men did interred with their bones. I urge the commission to dismiss this petition with prejudice.

Sincerely, Austin Jepsky

Austin Jepsky

Art Commission
c/o The Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street

Austin Jepsky
1409 Bayard St Apt #5
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

PITTSBURGH PA 150
01 JUL 2020 PM 3 L

Italian-American and Catholic Heritage

MICHAEL MARRA <mjmarra@gmail.com>

Wed 8/19/2020 7:42 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Italian-American and Catholic heritage must end. The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans and Catholics faced at the time and obviously still face to this day. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891, the largest mass lynching in American history, prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters and domestic terrorists who have shown nothing but anti-Catholic bigotry and hate toward Italian-Americans by the removal or destruction of Christopher Columbus monuments.

We urge you to save this statue in Schenley Park , and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

--Michael J. Marra, active member of the Knights of Columbus, an international Catholic fraternal and charity organization founded by Father Michael McGivney in 1882. From the charity's website:L Late-19thcentury Connecticut was marked by the growing fraternal benefit societies, anti-Catholic prejudice and dangerous factory working conditions that left many families fatherless. Recognizing a need in his community, Father Michael J. McGivney, the 29-year-old assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., gathered a group of men at his parish on Oct. 2, 1881. He proposed establishing a lay organization to prevent Catholic men from entering secret societies antithetical to Church teaching, uniting Catholic men and helping families of deceased members.

To demonstrate their loyalty to their country as well as their faith, these men took Christopher Columbus — recognized as a Catholic and celebrated as the discoverer of America – as their

patron. The Knights of Columbus elected officers in February 1882 and assumed corporate status on March 29.

In addition to the Order's benefits, Catholic men were drawn to the Knights because of its emphasis on serving one's Church, community and family with virtue. Fraternity and patriotism were added to the Knights' founding principles of charity and unity in 1885 and 1900, respectively.

1882: The Knights of Columbus is born on Feb. 6, 1882, when the first members choose Columbus as their patron....

http://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-history/founding-and-early-acts.html

Christopher Columbus statue

Catherine O'Brien <dec16czo@verizon.net>

Wed 8/19/2020 9:07 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: william.peduto@pittspa.gov <william.peduto@pittspa.gov>

o the Pittsburgh Art Commission:
The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.
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thank you
Catherine O'brien

Save Columbus

Info Email <Info@orderisda.org>

Thu 8/20/2020 8:24 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save this statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

save columbus statue

Joann Blackwell <JBlackwell@orderisda.org>

Thu 8/20/2020 3:49 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

<No Subject>

agiobbi <agiobbi@zoominternet.net>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:03 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Please do not remove the Christopher Columbus statue from Schenley Park.
Thank you!

Save Columbus

John Miceli <johnpadre@juno.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:21 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Save Columbus Statue

Judi Vitale <judivitale@me.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:22 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

The disgraceful way government officials have kowtowed to violent, vile-intentioned "protesters" is something of which they should be ashamed. Please don't let this happen in Pittsburgh.

I am against the desecration of ALL statues, but as an Italian American, I am especially in opposition to the removal of the beautiful tribute to Christopher Columbus.

When I moved back here after 30 years in New York City, I did it to return to a place where decency, patriotism, and respect for the diverse origins of the American people are universally and unquestioningly included in the fabric of the society. If you allow these people to rip down this statue, you will be opening the door for them to tear down the structure of the life of Pittsburgh, which could easily include other, precious art that has been given to us by our predecessors. Please don't let it happen.

Judith Vitale

> On Aug 20, 2020, at 4:28 PM, Elise Carson <ecarson@orderisda.org> wrote:
>
> <Save Columbus.pdf>

Columbus Monuement

Italian American Museum <italianamericanmuseum@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 6:04 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH V. SCELSA, ED.D
TO PITTSBURGH ARTS COMMISSION
CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF YOUR COLUMBUS MONUMENT

My name is Joseph Scelsa. I am the founder and president of the Italian American Museum in New York City's "Little Italy" on Mulberry Street.

The Italian American Museum was officially chartered on June 12, 2001 by the New York State Board of Regents and as such it is a Museum under the aegis of the University of the State of New York.

The Italian American Museum is more then an immigrant museum. Its purpose is to document the myriad of contributions made by the people of Italy and their descendents to the very fabric of American culture from its earliest origins and its philosophical underpinnings through philosophers, explorers, adventurers, industrialists, scientists, educators, politicians and everyday people, telling the whole story which continues to flourish and evolve in America today.

Prior to becoming president of the Italian American Museum, I was the first Dean of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of the City University of New York (CUNY) and a Vice President at Queens College , CUNY were I supervised all their Centers and Institutes. During my tenure at CUNY I was appointed Vice Chair of the Multi-Cultural Advisory Board and Co-Chair of the Inter group Relations Council of the New York City Board of Education. for its over one million students. In 1992, I was granted a Federal Court injunction baring CUNY from discriminating against Italian Americans at the University with regard to hiring , promotions and tenure.

I hold a Doctorate in Sociology and Education from Columbia University's Teachers College, the subject of my dissertation being "Constructive Pluralism'. It is a concept by which each group respects the rights of the other to celebrate and practice their culture in their own way and share those practices and beliefs with other groups in a civil society. Thus, in my mind, maintenance of the monuments in particular those of Christopher Columbus are strongly supported by constructive pluralism, a concept endorsed by The United Nations in promoting peace and harmony in a pluralistic world.

The removal or alteration ,in any way of the Christopher Columbus statue does not! That would in fact be "Destructive Pluralism" , the very opposite. What is necessary here is a dialogue between peoples with the goal of obtaining a mutual respect and understanding of each other. No one group, whether large or small should be replaced or superseded by another.To be fair to one you must be fair to all.

I implore the Pittsburgh Arts Commission to take seriously these remarks. Your good intentions are no substitute for unintended consequences . Removal of the Columbus Statue would pit one group

against another, That must not happen if we are to maintain a civil society which provides domestic tranquility.

I thank you for the opportunity to express my views on this important issue. I offer my assistance should you desire my further involvement.

Respectively

Cav. Uff. Joseph V. Scelsa, Ed.D.
Founder and President
Italian American Museum
Professor Emeritus
Queens College
The City University of New York

Italian American Museum
155 Mulberry Street
New York, NY 10013
Tel 212.965.9000
Fax 212.965.9004
Cell 917.642.4922
JVScelsa@ItalianAmericanMuseum.org
www.ItalianAmericanMuseum.org

Save Columbus Statue

Michael Arena <michael.arena.nyc@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 8:37 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Save Columbus

Manny ALFANO <mannyalfano@comcast.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 12:06 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

WE NEED TO RE EDUCATE OUR SELVES & OUR CHILDREN!
Start with Rafael Ortiz:
About the author: Rafael is the author of "Christopher Columbus The Hero- Defending Columbus From Modern Day Revisionism," "Columbus Day vs Indigenous Peoples' Day- The Truth Behind the Anti-Columbus Movement" and "Christopher Columbus and the Christian Church- And Why He Matters to Believers Today." He also writes for the "Official Christopher Columbus" website. His books have been used by pro-Columbus groups to save the Columbus Day holiday from being renamed or eliminated in the United States. Rafael was born in Puerto Rico and today he lives in South Carolina with his family.
A MUST READ
https://www.amazon.com/Rafael/e/B001KCXNV0/ref=pd_sbsd_14_bl_4/135-3683498-4020019?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B07HD2W84Z&pd_rd_r=5a0864be-5ce5-45e1-9c91-7463f8d9c5e9&pd_rd_w=7n1jH&pd_rd_wg=7JLi9&pf_rd_p=2c2d0d3b-b3c5-4110-93fa-2c1270309ac1&pf_rd_r=VWHXV29M3ERTHSSWXTQE&refRID=VWHXV29M3ERTHSSWXTQE&fbclid=IwAR0RkElzs9_4GSRjj1IJyeX5mYkKghL_MYQZFV6tJ5bgiuqsgSMnIcTyE

Manny Alfano
www.iaovc.org

Christopher Columbus Statue

Laura Collins <jlanjl@aol.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 9:44 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Pittsburgh Art Board Members

As an Italian American I was sadly surprised about the prospect of your removing the statue of Christopher Columbus in your city. This statue represents millions of Americans who came to this country seeking refuge and a better life for themselves and their families. Many have come precisely for the same refuge and betterment. Are you willing to include so many other cultures in your cleanse? These people served in the military, died in the wars, and worked tirelessly to improve their lives and better their communities. Their contributions have been numerous. This statue is a symbol representing millions of Italians, past and future.

Have you considered erasing the symbols and statues of other nationalities, religions and cultures? How sad. The past can not be rewritten. It is our past, something to be passed down from generation to generation, the good and the bad. It is to be cherished and revered by all of Americans. History is laden with many errors and accomplishments. This is how our country has become the great country it is today. How else can we learn?

How will our future generations view removing this statue, such an important part of this country's history. Think about it. I am so proud being an Italian American as are thousands of others.

Laura Verre

Sent from my iPad

Shenley Park Statue Decision

Lou Armagno <honolulou@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 11:51 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

OK, I know you'll get tons of the form letters form ISDA, so I thought I'd give you my own thoughts. I'm Italian American, 3d generation, but 100 proof on both sides of the family. I wasn't around for that mass lynching in 1891, nor can I honestly say I've ever been personally predjudiced against in my brief lifetime of 68 years.

I will tell you I'm a retired U.S. Air Force member (28 yrs) and Civil Service Employee (13 yrs). Most of my career has been overseas, both in Europe and Asia. As someone who hasn't really experienced prejudice or racism against himself, I have seen it against others. Yes, even in the Military Service--primarily against African Americans and women. And I have stood up for the people I supervised against such prejudice on every account. In one instance, a fellow Airman was so badly treated, he did not want a retirement ceremony after 20 yrs of service. There's a lot more to it, but I finally convinced him to have his retirement and celebrate his "entire" military service, not just the bad times. He became one of the Department of Defense top Civilians in his second career. And I'll tell you that I'm very proud that I contributed, in a small way, to his success. There are other instances I could relate to you, but that's neither here nor there. And this isn't about me, but about everyone who is standing up for injustice today.

If you remove the statue, you are not punishing the people who perpetrated injustices in the past, but myself and others like me who stand up for our fellow man. That statue does not just represent the discovery of our nation, it symbolizes the "goodness" and "contributions" of those here and now of Italian descent, who've championed the way to justice. How we,as Italian-Americans rose above "our" tyranny; as did other cultures like Chinese, Japanese, Irish, American Indians and African Americans. If you take it down, you're telling me my ancestors are to be repulsed, disrespected and forgotten; and the same about my culture and race.

Removing the statue will not contribute to the solution of America's racial problems. Only the education of our children and future generations can do that. It is too late for this generation and those past.

I wish you God's wisdom to guide you in making this decision.

Sincerely,

Lou Armagno, Cleveland Ohio

808-728-6949

Honolulou@gmail.com

Columbus statue

joseph mlinac <talljoe53@hotmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 11:54 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; MULLEN, CARM <jr.marine@hotmail.com>

Let he who is without sin throw the first stone. Columbus was responsible for " discovering" the New World , this is a great accomplishment by a man who took a chance. The rest of his life was a product of his environment, he got by within the law or more likely punishment would have been swiftly dealt him. Nothing affects him now but history still needs a story of risk , adventure, and a new frontier opened. Alexander the great opened the ancient world thru accepted norms which hastened trade, laws and civilization and Christopher Columbus did the same.
Keep the statue !

Get Outlook for Android

Re: Removal of statue of Columbus

MaryEllen Barker <mellenbrkr@hotmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 3:41 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

I understand the Arts Council in Pittsburgh will be voting to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus.

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

I urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

This bowing to the anarchists currently destroying our cities and demanding the removal of our history and culture is un-American nonsense. Words of Columbus' political adversary is being used to malign him. Hmmm.... fake news from centuries ago and you apparently are falling for it as well as the efforts of the 21st century cancel culture.

Grow a spine and do not cow to these malcontents. Stand up for America and all its citizens from its diverse melting pot.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Barker

Request to Save Columbus Statue

Edie Peters Liguori <ediepl@comcast.net>

Sun 8/23/2020 4:04 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Sincerely,

Edie Peters Liguori

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Fwd: Christopher Columbus Statue

Michael Giammarella <mgiamma@verizon.net>

Sun 8/23/2020 12:58 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

A copy of this e-mail was also sent to Mayor Bill Peduto.

-----Original Message-----
From: Michael Giammarella <mgiamma@verizon.net>
To: bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Michael Giammarella <mgiamma@verizon.net>
Sent: Sun, Aug 23, 2020 12:54 pm
Subject: Christopher Columbus Statue

Dear Mayor Peduto,

The purpose of this e-mail is to urge you to keep the Christopher Columbus Statue in its rightful place in Schenley Park. As Mayor of Pittsburgh, it is necessary that you and your colleagues on the Pittsburgh City Council lead by example, set aside your emotions and politics, and help your constituents understand and make sense of the historical forces that operated in the less than seven years that Columbus spent on the Caribbean Island of Hispaniola. To single out Christopher Columbus as the bearer of every ill and misfortune experienced by the native populations of the Americas is unfair and unjust. To Italian-Americans, Columbus is a symbol of inclusion and pride for Italian-Americans from the days of their arrival to America as immigrants. Italian-Americans like other ethnic and racial groups have a right to honor the great navigator that Columbus was. The following paragraphs will provide factual examples that will dispel the hatred, falsehoods and incessant misinformation and hatred propagated by Columbus's detractors.

I would like to begin by pointing out that Columbus never set foot in the present-day United States, and had nothing to do with the decimation of American Indians. Columbus spent most of his years in the New World on Hispaniola where he attempted to bring order to the island where he had to deal with treacherous settlers, aka "encomenderos" like Pedro Margarit, Alonso de Hojeda and Friar Buyl. These were some of the individuals who were responsible for the abuses and crimes perpetrated against the local natives. It is mindless to think that because Columbus was the first European explorer to land in the New World, his arrival would represent sufficient reason to justify the attribution of abuses and crimes solely to him. The Dominican monk, Bartolome de Las Casas, who arrived in Hispaniola in April 1502, saw for himself soon after his arrival, that it was the Spanish settlers with the tacit approval of the Spanish Church and the Spanish monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, who were responsible for many of the abuses committed against the indigenous people on Hispaniola and Cuba.

For the past forty years, we have witnessed an appalling and disturbing anti-Columbus movement to discredit and vilify the explorer, and bent on eradicating his name from American history. The two individuals responsible for this unfortunate trend through their respective dishonest narratives were Marxist Hans Koning and pseudo-historian, Professor Howard Zinn. Both have failed to tell the whole story about Columbus. In Koning's case, he began the smearing campaign against Columbus in his 1976 book, Columbus: His Enterprise: Exploding the Myththough "he was not a Columbus scholar or historian." One of Koning's most distorted and far-fetched generalizations devoid of facts and evidence that "Columbus's arrival instigated genocide."

As for Zinn, his professorial status did nothing to prevent him from acting as an honest and objective historian in his book, A People's History of America, first published in 1980. It took Zinn less than ten pages of a one-sided questionable narrative to convince thousands of students, teachers and others that Columbus was not so much an evil man but an imperfect individual who made mistakes. Zinn himself was imperfect when one considers that as a War World II American aviator, he dropped thousands of bombs on unsuspecting innocent people living in Western Europe. Because of Zinn's guilt of his actions, he returned the medals that were bestowed on him by the US government. Columbus also paid the price when his own men accused him of trumped-up charges, lost everything he was promised by the Spanish monarchs, and was returned to Spain in chains in October 1500.

Zinn's dubious scholarship has been criticized by liberal, left-leaning historians for his failure to adhere to key standards and "integrity code" set by the American Historical Association. Here is what some had to say about his book, A People's History: "Wilentz, Kazin, Greenberg, and Wineburg "offer among the softer appraisals of Zinn's magnum opus and his stature as a thinker." Others have been harsher, including the late Oscar Handlin, a professor of history at Harvard [who] wrote of the "deranged quality of a fairy tale, in which the incidents are made to fit the legend." Cornell's Michael Kammen reviewed the book in the Washington Post as "a scissors and paste-pot jot, but even less attractive." ("General Book Discussions…Peter Wood on Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United Sates," Good Reads, Inc., July 22, 2013). Recently, Mary Grabar's well-researched book: Debunking Howard Zinn: Exposing the Fake history that Turned a Generation against America (Regnery History/Publisher, 2019) has also exposed Zinn's deceptive and unjust portrayal of Columbus. Zinn who borrows heavily from Koning's book, also ends up accusing the explorer of "genocidal depredations."

To avoid being accused of plagiarizing from Koning's book, Zinn alters passages from his friend's book to suit his anti-Columbus narrative. Moreover, Zinn selectively infuses his quotations with ellipses as a way to omit information that would have provided a more accurate and balanced portrayal of Columbus. Zinn's egregious reliance on ellipses represents a cover-up in which crucial words were deliberately left out as indicated by the following quote taken from Ms. Grabar's book. Zinn writes: "They [local natives] would make fine servants." Here's what Zinn omitted: "I saw some who bore marks of wounds on their bodies [Tainos that Zinn labels Arawaks], and I made signs to them to ask how this came about, and they indicated to me that people came from other islands [Carib], which are near, and wished to capture them, and they defended themselves. And I believed and still believe that they come here from the mainland to take them for slaves." (page 12). Zinn's game is "to make Columbus say something very different from what he actually said." (pages 4-5).

Zinn's omissions are intentional since he makes it amply clear that his objective was to emphasize only the "dark" side of Columbus through unfounded assumptions, disinformation and ipso facto generalizations to discredit and vilify the explorer. Zinn did this willingly through the Zinn Education Project and Rethinking Schools to convey a false narrative about Columbus to "a generation of students in secondary schools, colleges and universities." This approach has only benefitted Zinn, as Ms. Grabar writes: "[Zinn] rode to fame and fortune on the "untold story" of Christopher Columbus- a shocking tale of severed hands, raped women, and gentle enslaved people worked to death to slake the white Europeans' lust for gold. Today, that story is anything but untold. Zinn's narrative about the genocidal discover of America has captured our education system and popular culture." (page 1) The examples of shocking tales of "crimes" supposedly committed by Columbus's "own hands" are utterly false and not supported by facts.

Ironically, the origin of Zinn's anti-Columbus rant came from his radical, Marxist friend Hans Koning. Ms. Grabar points out that Zinn "completely glosses over how generously he borrowed [from Koning's] book… [and] failing to give credit where credit was due, and becoming the rock star of leftist historians as a result." (page 8) Ms. Grabar questions Zinn's scholarship when she writes: "… there is no evidence that Zinn ever actually made extensive notes in preparation for writing A People's History. On the contrary, there is telling proof that he did no such thing. It's unlikely that he even read as much of "Columbus's journals" or the works of 'Las Casas, the great eyewitness" as he claimed. (page 5) It is a well-known fact that Las Casas narrative on Columbus was based on hearsay, notes and writings left by the explorer after his death on May 20, 1506.

The vilification and scapegoating of Columbus has gone too far as the false narrative promoted against Columbus has become a "cause celebre." Therefore, I urge you and your City Council colleagues to keep in place the Columbus Statue and also the Columbus Day holiday. In addition, I urge you to read Mary Grabar's book since it provides a fresh new perspective on Columbus in comparison to the questionable, one-sided narratives provided by Koning and Zinn.

In conclusion, I leave you with the following quote from Samuel Eliot Morison's book, Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus: "America would eventually been discovered if the Great Enterprise of Columbus had been rejected; yet who can predict what would have been the outcome? The voyage
that took him to "The Indies" and home was no blind chance, but the creation of his brain and soul, long studied, carefully planned, repeatedly urged on indifferent princes, and carried through by virtue of his courage, sea-knowledge and indomitable will. No later voyage could ever have such spectacular results, and Columbus's fame would have been secure had he retired from the sea in 1493…" (pages 669-670).

Michael Giammarella
Emeritus Professor
The City University of New York

Italian Lives Matter Too!

Vilma Sorgente <vilmasorgente@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 9:45 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save this statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Most Sincerely,

Vilma Sorgente

Italian Lives Matter Too!

G.V. Sorgente <gvsorgente@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 9:54 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save this statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Most Sincerely,

Giovanni Sorgente

Christopher Columbus Statue

Bobbie de Candido <bobbiedecandido@outlook.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 12:01 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Pittsburgh Art Commission,

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end!

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save this statue, and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for. The Mob do not represent the majority, and in no case should be allowed to rewrite history!

Sincerely,

Bobbie de Candido

Christopher Columbus Statue

neild30@aol.com <neild30@aol.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 12:08 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: neild30@aol.com <neild30@aol.com>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Sincerely,

Neil D. Garguilo

Freehold, NJ

Sent from Windows Mail

Assaults against Christopher Columbus statues & Italian-American Heritage

Anthony Serrano <acserrano53@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 4:21 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Pittsburgh Art Commission:
The indiscriminate, and mindless assaults against Christopher Columbus statues must end.... once and for all.

Vandalizing and removing these statues proves absolutely nothing, changes absolutely nothing, and fans the flames of more hatred and animosity. These symbolic actions only may satisfy an immediate need to placate those who are rightly championing a cause for racial injustice, But, has anyone stopped to consider the decent hardworking Italian-Americans who have become "collateral damage" in this political theater of the absurd ?

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Just stop and think. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The **mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891** actually prompted the creation of this holiday.

The statues and parades have not only come to symbolize the richness of Italian-American history and culture brought to our nation, but the common unity of a fight against discrimination. We refuse to have this history cheaply hijacked by a few lawless protesters who are merely seeking photo ops. We will not give up.... as we will honor the legacy of our grandparents and great-grandparents who gave up everything they had to come to America and give their children a better life. THAT IS AMERICA.

We urge you to stand up and show the courage to speak up to those who are pressuring you. Save this statue, and you will have preserved a history and heritage that many thousands fought and died for.

Thank You for listening.

Most Sincerely,
Anthony Serrano
Ocala, Florida

Save The Columbus Statue

William Cerruti <italy1@surewest.net>

Sun 8/23/2020 5:13 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: William Cerruti <italy1@surewest.net>; 'Basil Russo' <Basil@orderisda.org>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 **by a** mob prompted the creation of the holiday. The Columbus statues and holiday are a symbol of Italian American identity and their fight against racism and discrimination. The statues were built to honor and recognize the struggles and contributions of Italian Americans. You can stand against the erasing of Italian American history by saving the Columbus statue. Our history should not be silenced by lawless protesters or by mistaken decisions by City officials. To remove a statue so important to Italian Americans is not OK. We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for in defense of our country.

Each Columbus statue destroyed, decapitated, or removed strips away the recognition Italian Americans have fought so hard to earn. The unfair attacks on Columbus which obscure the truth about the man, his voyage and his motives should not obscure the reason why Columbus Matters to Italian Americans. We do not accept a shame narrative of American history. A narrative which does not recognize the history and contributions of millions of Italian immigrants and other Americans who helped build America.

If some are offended by the Columbus statue that is no excuse for its removal. There would be no statues and no public art at all if we , as a nation, were to use the impossible yardstick that some may be offended. Where would it end. It would not.

Keep the Columbus statue as a tribute to the Italian American people of Pittsburgh.

Bill Cerruti
Executive Director
Italian Cultural Society, Sacramento
Italy1@surewest.net
916 482-5900
Italiancenter.net

Christopher Columbus Statues

Patricia Griggs <bristolmama@msn.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 7:12 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save this statue, and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Get Outlook for iOS

Christopher Columbus

helen pepe <helen_pepe@yahoo.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 7:25 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Good Evening

Please do not remove the monument as it is a cultural symbol of all the proud Italian Americans.

thank yoiu

helen_pepe@yahoo.com

Columbus Statute in Schenley Park

P Foster <mmepfaux@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 7:31 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Members,

As a native of Pittsburgh and second generation Italian, I am requesting that the statue of Christopher Columbus which stands in Schenley Park remain intact and in its original place.

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save this statue, and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Grazie,

P. Foster

Sent from my iPad

Italian American Discrimination and the Columbus Statue

Bob Rossetti <rossetti.bob@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 6:22 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; robert.charland@pittsburghpa.com <robert.charland@pittsburghpa.com>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.com <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.com>; district7@pittsburghpa.com <district7@pittsburghpa.com>; erica.strassburger@pittsburghpa.com <erica.strassburger@pittsburghpa.com>; reverand.burgess@pittsburghpa.com <reverand.burgess@pittsburghpa.com>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

My Italian Parents and Grandparents immigrated to the Pittsburgh area in the early 1900s. They worked in the Steel Mills and built strong families despite the Italian discrimination often shown to them. Yes even here in Western Pennsylvania. I can remember going to the Columbus Statue in 1958 with my mother and father when I was 7 years old. They explained that the Statue was erected to honor all Italian Americans. I visited the Statue often when I was a Student at the University of Pittsburgh. My children and grandchildren have visited the Statue with me and I explained it's meaning. Please do the right thing, keep the statue and educate our community instead of doing the easy thing and caving in to uninformed people.

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save this statue, and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Do the right thing and honor the many Italian Americans living in Pittsburgh, it's surrounding areas and the entire United States. Educate don't destroy history.

Sincerely,

Robert Romeo Rossetti
314 Maplewood Avenue

Monroeville, PA 15146

Save Columbus

Michele Liberatore <micheleliberatore6@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 7:28 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

This is racial prejudice and a re-writing of history.

Sincerely,
Michele Liberatore

Michele Liberatore
Atina Homes, LLC
412-651-2426 cell
412-308-6259 home
micheleliberatore6@gmail.com

Christopher Columbus statue

Dr. Dan <drstrinkoski@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 7:58 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. For months, members of the Italian-American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian-Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian-Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

I urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve the history and heritage that Italian-Americans fought and died for.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Strinkoski, D.D.S.

--

Daniel J. Strinkoski, D.D.S.
942 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412-322-9620

Preserve Schenley Park Columbus Statue

afsanta57@aol.com <afsanta57@aol.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 9:21 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To Members of the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

I know your are meeting this Wednesday to discuss the fate of the city's Christopher Columbus statue. This statue has been a prominent feature of Schenley Park since 1958, over 62 years. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harris to push back against fierce prejudice and widespread violence against Italian Americans at that time. My parents came to American in the early 1900's, my wife came to America in 1949, we are proud Americans and proud Italian Americans. Members of my family have fought in every war beginning in WWI, WWII, Korean War (my brother, sister and both brothers-in-law), Viet Nam (me) and Operation Desert Storm. The single largest ethnic group of soldiers who fought for America during WWII were Italian Americans and this while Italian Americans were put in internment camps in Missoula Montana (few people are aware of this, it seems only the Japanese internment is widely known).

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination against ALL PEOPLE, we reuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. To allow protesters to turn on a symbol of pride for the contribution and sacrifices made by generations of Italian Americans and the 25 million in America today establishes a precedent that at any time protesters can determine which statues they determine want removed. Both the Democratic nominee for President, Joe Biden and the presumptive Republican nominee for President, Donald Trump have endorsed the Christopher Columbus holiday and spoken out against the removal of statues. Support from both parties.

I sincerely ask for your vote to keep the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park and to protect it from vandals. Thank you.

Anthony F. Santarelli, Viet-Nam Veteran who proudly served his country

Don't remove the statue of Christopher Columbus!!!

Robert Turri <bob.linda.turri@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 9:38 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country...,

WITH LITTLE RESISTANCE FROM POLICE OR CITY LEADERSHIP!

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

THE STATUES AND PARADES SYMBOLIZE UNITY AND A FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, AND

WE REFUSE TO HAVE THIS HISTORY HIJACKED BY LAWLESS PROTESTERS!

WE URGE YOU to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we FOUGHT AND DIED FOR!

ROBERT TURRI
ENON, OHIO

SAVE the Columbus Statue!

Shelly Fetchen DiCesaro <sfdicesaro@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 6:55 AM

To: Shelly Fetchen DiCesaro <sfdicesaro@gmail.com>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. PERIOD!

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the
country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Vandalism does nothing to advance a cause, and in this case vandals and protestors are not understanding the full story and critical needs to preserve this part of history.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. Not to mention....he is the "founder" of our country! There is nothing wrong with celebrating an accomplishment that ultimately enabled MY Italian and European ancestors to pursue THEIR American dream and thrive!!! Lets learn from our past and celebrate the good!

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Sincerely,
Dr. Shelly DiCesaro

Save Columbus

ma.djo@verizon.net <ma.djo@verizon.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 12:40 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thank You,
Deborah Ferranti

save columbus

ma.djo@verizon.net <ma.djo@verizon.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 12:38 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thank You,
Michael Ferranti

Christopher Columbus

Debbie Bigos <lovemymutts@outlook.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 10:22 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Don;t make a Columbus statue become another statistic in the cancel culture. Was he a perfect person? No. Is anyone? No. But that doesn't erase the achievements that he did. And for the things that make people so upset, this now becomes a learning situation.

Our country, as good as it is, has had it's flaws. We are a great nation, but our history is checkered with some regrettable events. But it's our history…the good and the bad. You can't erase it. That's what communists did when taking over another country. Take away the local history and try to replace it with their agenda. We are a democracy. Some people have a problem with Columbus, but to others he represents a lot more. Why are the complainers the only ones who get listened to?

Let Chris stay. It's part of our history.

COLUMBUS STATUE: PITTSBURGH, PA: A MUST READ FOR CONSIDERATION

Michael Santo <attysanto@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 10:37 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Erika.strassberger@pittsburgh.gov <Erika.strassberger@pittsburgh.gov>

1 attachments (398 KB)

CC COLUMBUS LETTER 8 25 2020 GET IT RIGHT FINAL FINAL.docx;

See attached REPUBLICAN RESOLUTION (DEMOCRATS HAVE A SIMILAR ONE). Making progress...

As Adopted by the Resolutions Committee

RESOLUTION TO CONSERVE HISTORY AND COMBAT PREJUDICE – CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

WHEREAS, The men and women who have made historically significant, positive contributions to humanity are universally complex figures;

WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus was a courageous, determined, faithful man of vision, whose voyage to the Americas linked two continents and initiated the exchange of ideas, plants, animals, resources, and peoples, and ultimately laid the foundation for the birth of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, America's uniquely dynamic culture, and the Western Civilizations upon which it is founded, have done more to advance freedom, promote equality, lift people from poverty, and advance human dignity than any other culture, movement, or ideology in human history;

WHEREAS, The expansion of Western Civilization, and the establishment of the United States of America, has led to an ever-improving, free and equal society benefitting all Americans;

WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus and his voyage exemplify the contributions that millions of American men and women with Italian heritage have made to our nation's ideals and society; and

WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus, the Catholic fraternal order with an estimated two million members selected at a time of rampant anti-Catholic prejudice, Christopher Columbus as their namesake to recognize and celebrate the indispensable role of a Catholic Christian in the origin of America's adventurous and free national destiny; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Republican National Committee (RNC) supports the celebration of the discoveries and contributions of Christopher Columbus, his courage despite unbelievable hardship, and the role he played in connecting the world and creating a new and dynamic civilization in the Americas;

RESOLVED, That the RNC encourages public educational institutions to celebrate Columbus' unparalleled contributions to human connectedness, his role in the creation of America, and his importance as a figurehead for Americans facing anti-Italian and anti-Catholic prejudice; and

RESOLVED, That the RNC affirms the need to take a strong position in support of our founding ideals, and in solidarity against anti-Italian and anti-Catholic prejudice, by defending Columbus Day as a federal holiday and urging all Republican candidates to do the same.

Paid for by the Republican National Committee
Not Authorized By Any Candidate Or Candidate's Committee
www.gop.com

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PITTSBURGH ARTS COMMISSION
Most respectfully, and on behalf of the Italian American community, I request that you read the attached letter.
Thank you,
M. Santo

Michael A. Santo, Esq.

Michael A. Santo, P. C.
3047 Lee Place
Bellmore NY 11710-5035

Cell: 516.551.5503
attySANTO@gmail.com
FAX: 888.501.9612

Admitted to practice in:
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Of Counsel to:
SILBERSTEIN AWAD & MIKLOS, P. C.
600 Old Country Road, 5th Floor
Garden City NY 11530
https://ask4sam.net/attorneys/michael-a-santo/

Concentrating in MEDICAL MALPRACTICE,
PERSONAL INJURY & NURSING HOME CLAIMS

The contents of this communication are confidential and/or legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, please notify the sender as soon as possible.

MICHAEL A. SANTO, P.C.
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Of Counsel to:
Silberstein Awad & Miklos, P.C.
600 Old Country Road
Garden City NY 11530

Admitted to Practice Law in:
New York
New Jersey
Massachusetts

August 25, 2020

RE: HOW TO ADDRESS ISSUES AS TO COLUMBUS STATUES & MONUMENTS

Dear America:

Get it right. You have been faced with the decision to remove a simple statue. The act itself is uncomplicated. The amount of time to remove the statue is short. It can be stored away and you never have to see it again, despite the number of years it sat there in a prominent location in your municipality. You are the City of Pueblo, Colorado, Chicago, Illinois, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Boston Massachusetts, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Newark, New Jersey, Syracuse, New York, and so many cities and small communities around the nation.

You are swept up in a wave of what appears to be an indignant movement by citizens who are ill-informed—some believe to their heart, others hellbent on a false cause or narrative---wanting to "correct" history and erase deeds and acts of a gentleman named ***Christofo Columbo.*** Otherwise known as Columbus, this man changed history like no other. For more than 500 years he has been revered the world over. He is the positive symbol of hundreds of millions of Italians, and other immigrants around the world.

So, what is the point of removing these statues and monuments to our history? How and why have you—with the fleeting power and control that you have for your term of office—been so quick to act without considering the FACTS? Have you considered for a moment that the current assertions and allegations against Columbus are wrong?

Starting in about the 1980s, there was a movement to change the course of history by printing false accounts of Columbus, painting him in history books, classes, and popular charges as a murderer, rapist, and white supremist. I can't explain the motives in such a short note, but you have a duty and obligation to search for the truth and find out.

Let's consider the purpose and origin of Columbus Day.

Columbus Day actually evolved from a tragic and deadly episode in New Orleans, on

March 14, 1891. Hundreds of thousands of Italian Immigrants had made their way to New Orleans in the 1880s in order to seek employment and leave an economically decimated southern Italy. The jobs were available due to the void of the freed slaves and the market for field workers. The immigrants arrived on the shores of the Mississippi River, settling in to the current French Quarters (then named "Little Palermo").

On October 15, 1890, the New Orleans Police Commissioner David Hennessy was shot in front of his home; he died hours later in a nearby hospital. There were witnesses, but none could identify the possible four assassins. Nevertheless, and on the basis of the last whispers of Hennessy, who stated that the "Dagoes" did it, the police randomly rounded up hundreds of Italians on mere suspicion. Nineteen innocent Sicilian immigrants were falsely charged with his murder (FN 1: Articles on the lynching; the penultimate book on this topic is *Vendetta,* authored by Professor Richard Gambino).

The first trial involved nine defendants, resulting in the mistrial of three and a not guilty verdict as to six on March 12, 1891. Judge Baker, who presided over the trial remanded the nine back to the nearby Orleans Prison for new, unsubstantiated charges of "lying in wait with the intent to commit murder."

The city was in an uproar. The prosecutors employed underhanded tactics to gain advantage, jurors had been illegally contacted, and the Judge did everything to help convict these men, to no avail. Organizers had a plan.

On that fateful and despicable day, March 14, 1891, City organizers---including businessmen, politicians, and lawyers alike—arranged for a "meeting" by taking out ads in the local papers. People were invited to meet at a popular location not far from the prison, to "***remedy the failure of justice in the Hennessy case"*** and were told to "***[c]ome prepared for action."*** The organizers convinced the thousands who showed to march to the Orleans Prison, where they broke in, tracked down, and lynched 11 Italians. The brutal details are in the accounts in the footnote **[FN 1: Articles on the 1891 Lynching in New Orleans; 4: Victim Lists].**

The account was printed around the nation and received with satisfaction and approval by such papers as the *New York Times,* the *Washington Post,* and the *San Francisco Chronicle.* The acceptance didn't stop there. Teddy Roosevelt, who was to become the Governor of New York a few years later, and eventually the 26th President of the United States, was quoted as saying that the horrific lynching was a *"rather good thing."* Suffice it to remark that the status of Italians at this time was low, hateful, and degrading, noting that such adjectives including "sub human," savages," and other distasteful names **[FN 5: NY Times Editorial: March 16, 1891; FN 6: An Open Letter to the NY Times, May 21, 2019].**

The uproar from the trial, and the unscrupulous way that it was handled, became national and then international news. Italy pulled its Ambassador from the United States. Investigations into the account were a farce. The United States government intervened.

President Benjamin Harrison decided to use his office to acknowledge the contributions of Italians and Italian Americans with a Presidential Proclamation to honor a prominent Italian whose contributions were unquestioned; he selected Columbus. The first statue was placed at "The Circle," and named Columbus Circle in New York City, where it was unveiled on October 13, 1892.

The intention was for a "one-time" holiday, but given the strong and popular acclamation for an annual observance, it later became a national holiday **[FN 3: Articles Connecting the Lynching with the adoption of Columbus Day].** Yet, there was another tragedy in America just a few short months before the New Orleans lynching, and it involved the Lakota Sioux (The Wounded Knee Massacre):

> **You won't find it in the public literature surrounding the first Columbus Day in 1892, but in the background lay two recent tragedies, one involving Native Americans, the other involving Italian Americans. The first tragedy was the massacre by U.S. troops of between 146 and 200 Lakota Sioux, including men, women and children, at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, on December 29, 1890. Shooting began after a misunderstanding involving an elderly, deaf Sioux warrior who hadn't heard and therefore did not understand that he was supposed to hand over his rifle to the U.S. Cavalry. The massacre at Wounded Knee marked the definitive end of Indian resistance in the Great Plains. The episode was immediately seen by the government as potentially troubling, although there was much popular sentiment against the Sioux. An inquiry was held, the soldiers were absolved, and some were awarded medals that Native Americans to this day are seeking to have rescinded.**
>
> **See FN 3: *What Columbus Day Really Means,* AMERICAN SCHOLAR: October 4, 2012, by William J. Connell.**

What's interesting, and discussed in the same above referenced article, is that Professor Connell poses the following with relation to these two tragedies and Columbus Day:

> **Whenever I hear of protests about the Columbus Day holiday—protests that tend to pit Native Americans against Italian Americans, I remember these tragedies that occurred so soon before the first Columbus Day holiday, and I shake my head. President Harrison did not allude to either of these sad episodes in his proclamation of the holiday, but the idea for the holiday involved a vision of an America that would get beyond the prejudice that had led to these deaths. Columbus Day was supposed to recognize the greatness of all of America's people, but especially Italians and Native Americans.**

Both segments were victimized. Both suffered, and were horribly treated. Both were killed by American governments. Now, both sides are at odds over what Columbus Day means and who Columbus was.

An Apology

One Hundred Twenty-Eight years after the New Orleans lynching, and at the urging of the Italian American community, the brave Mayor of New Orleans, LaToya Cantrell, offered to issue a Proclamation and present a formal apology for the complicity of the then Mayor, and others, in 1891. She presented the apology before a battery of press officials, descendants of the victims and a large contingency of Italian Americans who came from around the country, at the American Italian Cultural Center in New Orleans **[FN 2: Press Accounts**].

Mayor Cantrell's words and actions went a long way to help heal the societal wounds that has festered for all those years. **[FN 9: VIDEOS of "Apology"].** Despite the length of time, the truth was revealed, an honest dialogue began, and this horrific piece of history can now be understood so that we can embrace the future on better terms. This was a lesson for us as to today's topic on Columbus.

Columbus Today

What has come of Columbus? For nearly 500 years, our schools and his accounts remained in good stead. He was honored on an annual basis, not specifically as a great man, but as a favorable symbol for all Italian Americans who can now hold their heads high and say that we are part of the American success. Our culture and history have become one with Columbus. While there are so many Italians to emulate, be proud of and honor, it remains Columbus as the man who symbolized the break from the days when we were treated with distain, called names, shunned from society and yes, lynched (there were other lynching of Italians in other communicates, noting that New Orleans is the most tragic, not only because of the number, but the manner in which the city government was complicit).

What happened? In the 1980s, Columbus was, all of a sudden, no longer revered. He was labelled a slave trader, colonizer, and responsible for a number of atrocities involving the indigenous peoples he encountered on his trips here from Europe. Did the historians and academia get it wrong for 500 years? Did they miss something? No, not at all.

The dysfunction in the historical evaluation of Columbus started with a few unscrupulous and unsavory "researchers" who wrote new "false narratives" and whose mis-quotes from "primary sources" rattled a generation of teachers and students. The process called into question his character, methods and intentions, even to the point where people suggest that Columbus was a racist and while supremist.

Do Italian Americans now have to defend what was correct for 500 years? Does this new false narrative now suggest that anything and everything Columbus have to come down, be hidden, and statues be removed to be placed into a warehouse? ABSOLUTELY NOT…because these accusations are all FALSE. They must be debunked and, in fact, have been debunked.

Recently, I attended a mediation process set up by the Mayor of Pueblo, Colorado, between two groups representatives of local Italian Americans, and local indigenous and Latino peoples. The issue was what to do, if anything, with the Columbus Monument, which was erected in 1905 and placed on the National Register for Historic Places. As is the case in other cities such as Chicago, Philadelphia and Baltimore, Pueblo is experiencing continual protests at the site of the statue. The police force is stressed. The cost to keep peace is expensive.

The easy way out is to remove the "source" of the problem. But this is not surgery to remove cancer. This is a decision about being fair to the citizens of the city. What to do? Other cities simply take down Columbus statues in the middle of the night. There is really no thought there. They succumb to the loud voices of the minority, and, in many cases, outside agitators whose bizarre goals include disruption and chaos.

Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar set up the mediation process to hear both sides. Unfortunately, the process was sunk from the beginning. Why? Both sides showed up. The mediator was a professional and a Harvard Law graduate and handled the process in a sensible manner. Much time went into the process. What went wrong was the failure to learn and communicate.

When the groups were together for the first time in a room, an attorney for the indigenous peoples spewed the hate and false narratives about Columbus, citing from the same historians who were guilty of "historical malpractice." How could anything go on from there? It was impossible. The mediation ended and the decision now rests with the Pueblo City government.

The issue is this: Will those with the power and control to make the decision on the Columbus Monument actually take into account what I've just written? Will they side with the mob mentality, the false narratives, and the current bizarre trend called "CANCEL CULTURE." If they do, then what is protected? What will last? Will history repeat itself at this level?

My suggestion is really simple. Consider the facts. Read. Study.

<u>False Narratives Must be Understood and Rejected</u>

I encourage America to ***get it right.*** **[See FN 7: Columbus: Academic Articles/Authors to Read; See FN 8: Campaigns in Favor of Columbus].** See and read how these false narratives have been debunked, and how the basis and reliance for the negativism over Columbus is really about JUNK HISTORY. Before any politician exercises his or her power and control---especially over a long-standing symbol of greatness---one has the duty and obligation to see and understand history and the facts.

<u>Additionally, consider going through the above referenced material. I maintain that the articles, books and wirings will confirm the notes below:</u>

- ***Columbus' main reason for the voyage was religious***, i.e. to spread Christianity (See FN 7: Author Carol Delaney: *Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem: How Religion Drove the Voyages that led to America*.

- ***Columbus was:***

    - ***Not racist.*** See FN 7: Rafael, *Columbus: THE HERO, at Chapter 13.*
    - ***Not a cannibal.*** See FN 7: Rafael, *Columbus: THE HERO, at Chapter 15.*
    - ***Not a slave-trader/holder.*** See FN 7: Rafael, *Columbus: THE HERO, at Chapter 22.*
    - ***Not a torturer who cut off the hands of the locals.*** See FN 7: Rafael, *Columbus: THE HERO, at Chapter 19*
    - ***Not a murderer*** See FN 7: Rafael, *Columbus: THE HERO, at Chapter 18, 28*
    - ***Not interested in making "servants" of the indigenous peoples*** See FN 7: Rafael, *Columbus: THE HERO, at Chapter 11*
        - The most used "quote" and likely the most ignorant of quotes attributable to Columbus was the following:
            - *They were well-built with good bodies and handsome features…they do not bear arms…they have no iron. Their spears are made of cane…**They would make fine servants…with 50 men, we could subjugate them and make them do whatever we want.***
        - First, Columbus never looked down on the Indians. In fact, he praised the Indians for their culture.
        - Second, the quote was taken out of context (a painful and repetitive act by author Howard Zinn and others, and debunked by a myriad of respected historians and researchers (pages 63-66).
        - Third, the portion of the quote ("with fifty men we could subjugate them") is not even part of the original paragraph, noting that that statement was made three days later from the first, and a reference to Queen Isabel that **IF** he had to fight them all he would need is 50 men…and that never happen.
        - See also FN: 7, Dr. Mary Grabar: *Debunking Howard Zinn: Exposing the Fake History that turned a Generation against America,* August, 2019 (See further: https://marygrabar.com/).

There is no doubt that Columbus behaved according to the tenets of the time. He did "take" some indigenous peoples with him, but not as slaves. His motive was to teach them Christianity and offer them a better life. But these acts do not fit into the bent narrative of the revisionists such as Howard Zinn, James Loewen, Ward Churchill, and several other lesser knowns who repeated the same unfounded script.

Author Mary Grabar studied the above radials very closely and choose the one who had the biggest impact: Howard Zinn. Mr. Zinn was a fanatical anarchist, whose book, *A People's History of the United States,* was the genesis for everything that is anti-America. An admirer of Stalin, Mao, and anything communist, Zinn seemingly went out of his way to fabricate, manipulate and present a false narrative of American history, including the life of Columbus.

Professor Graybar provides a comprehensive critique of Howard Zinn's works, which are filled with mistakes, lies, half-truths, and unfounded smears. Reasonable people, and at my behest and invitation here, you should be in her debt for calling Zinn out and providing a powerful, and timely take-down of this pseudo-culture. She reveals how Zinn's shocking tales of severed hands, raped women and a lust for gold are all unfounded. His narrative about a genocidal Columbus captured the minds of the educational system and popular culture.

Zinn's and the other works of fiction laid out a foundation for the violent, Marxist-inspired group ANTIFA, which declared a nationwide "Deface Columbus Day." The transformation of this radial group, and those who profess an alliance to them, set up causes to replace or eliminate Columbus Day, oftentimes being swopped out with Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Italian Americans have always stood with and for the Indigenous Peoples, with the full understand about what and how they were decimated over a long period of time. I honestly don't believe that there is so much a gripe with Italian Americans by the Indigenous groups, rather than a sentiment that Columbus---as transformed over time with false narratives—became the face of evil and everything that wrong from 1492 forward. But, their engagement with the elimination of Columbus Day and Columbus statues seemingly placates that overwhelming sense of victimhood. That's sad because both groups shared that victimhood status and there was never the animosity or ill will between the groups until lately. Italian Americans wish to end that. The best way to do that is with an understanding of the past, a willingness to cooperate and a desire to embrace each other moving forward. There's still room for that.

The list of false narratives, misrepresentations and fake history by the above list of men is not new. Whatever their goals, they have been studied, ridiculed and proven to be wrong by the legitimate and knowledgeable experts in the field of history. The problem is that their narratives linger in the minds of students who was subjugated to and indoctrinated by their works at high school and college levels.

This need not happen here. It should not happen here. As politicians, you owe a duty and obligation to do what is right and best for the people in your community. No matter how large or small your municipality, your decisions will have significant impacts. Do you truly believe that you should act on the whims and representations of the few, without hearing from the "other side"? No, of course not.

That's why I have taken the time to prepare and present this letter with the historical details on Columbus Day, the importance of that day to Americans in general, and to

Italians, in particular. Fanatics rewrite history to edit out the points of history they don't like. It's an act of historic cleaning. Our country should not be walking down that road.

Summary

The silent majority is complicit in their complacency. I grant you that. Italian Americans have become successful. That success made us lazy. Not anymore. If there's one lesson here, is it that we are awake, we vote, and we will not stand for what we see is a multitude of civil rights violations taking place in our cities and communities.

It is a big mistake, and a dangerous precedent, to remove one statue of Columbus. Its tantamount to hysteria, a surrender to mob mentality and an exercise in ignorance. Which statue is next?

I've presented this letter in a format and offered an extensive and deep footnote section on purpose. I want you to have the ability to click to the sites in order to afford you the quick ability to learn and research before you make a decision because I WANT AMERICA TO GET IT RIGHT.

Most Sincerely,

Michael A. Santo

Michael A. Santo

Volunteer Counsel: National Columbus Educational Foundation (NCEF)
Member: Columbus Citizens Foundation (CCF)
Member: Italian Sons and Daughters of America (ISDA)
Former General Counsel: NY State Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA)
Former Special Counsel: NY State Commission for Social Justice, OSDIA

FOOTNOTES

1. **ARTICLES ON THE LYNCHING**

   http://garysreflections.blogspot.com/2017/01/a-mass-lynching-forgotten-in-american.html

   https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-new-orleans-eleven-the-untold-history-of-the-lynching-of-italians-in-america/5372379

   https://www.buzzfeed.com/adamserwer/how-an-1891-mass-lynching-tried-to-make-america-great-again?utm_term=.oggJxLRWb#.iw3wNbW9Q

   https://www.history.com/news/the-grisly-story-of-americas-largest-lynching

   https://admin.americanthinker.com/articles/2017/08/when_will_new_orleans_apologize_for_the_italian_lynchings.html

   https://legallegacy.wordpress.com/2016/03/14/march-14-1891-lynching-of-eleven-italian-americans-in-new-orleans/

2. **NOLA PROJECT: PRESS ACCOUNTS**

INCOMPLETE LIST OF MEDIA COVERAGE AS TO NOLA PROJECT: INCOMPLETE LIST OF MEDIA COVERAGE AS TO NOLA PROJECT:
New Orleans: April 12, 2019
https://www.nola.com/news/article_ebd61396-a013-5b22-8171-bd8bd7416a88.html
NOLA.COM
https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-47767421 BBC
https://www.cnn.com/2019/04/01/us/new-orleans-mayor-apologizes-italian-americans-trnd/index.html
CNN
https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-orleans-apologizes-1891-lynching-italian-americans-180971959/ SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE
https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/04/01/new-orleans-apologize-lynching-italians-among-worst-american-history/ WASHINGTON POST
https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/436702-new-orleans-mayor-to-apologize-to-italian-americans-for-1891-lynchings THE HILL
https://www.wsj.com/articles/an-overdue-apology-to-italian-americans-11554761121
WALL STREET JOURNAL
https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-friday-edition-1.5095791/it-s-never-too-late-new-orleans-mayor-apologizes-for-1891-mass-lynching-of-italian-americans-1.5095802 CANADIAN BROADCASTING
https://www.fox8live.com/2019/04/12/mayor-latoya-cantrell-issue-apology-italian-lynching/ LOCAL FOX AFFILIATE: NEW ORLEANS
https://www.orderisda.org/culture/news/new-orleans-mayor-to-issue-apology-over-largest-lynching-in-us-history/ ITALIAN SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

https://www.orderisda.org/culture/news/new-orleans-mayor-apologizes-for-lynching-of-italians-in-1891/ ITALIAN SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA
https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/article_22f3b8e6-5591-11e9-8212-2f6d1ad3f927.html THE ADVOCATE, BATON ROUGE, LA
https://www.wwltv.com/article/news/local/orleans/mayor-cantrell-to-apologize-for-1891-lynching-of-11-italian-americans/289-e6d94cd3-7a7d-4bd3-813a-dda6b624285c WWL: CBS AFFILIATE
https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/apr/01/new-orleans-to-apologise-for-worst-mass-lynching-in-americas-history THE GUARDIAN
https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/mayor-apologize-1861-lynching-11-italian-americans-62055901 ABC NEWS
https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=2328795927160018&ref=watch_permalink FOX 8 NEWS FACEBOOK PAGE
https://www.rrstar.com/opinion/20190802/my-view-italian-americans-get-official-city-apology-from-new-orleans RRSTAR.COM OPINION PAGE
https://www.hernandosun.com/article/new-orleans-issues-apology-1891-mass-lynching-italians HERNANDO SUN, FLORIDA
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/new-orleans-lynching-lynching-us-history-italian-latoya-cantrell-a8849416.html THE INDEPENDENT, UK.
https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/04/scuse-ufficiali-new-orleans-per-linciaggio-14-marzo-1891-di-11-italiani.html MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ITALY
http://www.loopsamoa.com/global-news/new-orleans-mayor-apologise-1891-lynching-italian-americans-83420 PACIFIC GLOBAL
https://www.kedm.org/post/new-orleans-mayor-apologize-lynching-11-italian-americans#stream/0 PUBLIC RADIO; NPR; LA
https://www.pri.org/file/2019-04-03/after-128-years-apology-new-orleans WORLD RADIO INTERVIEW/BBC
https://wrno.iheart.com/content/2019-04-12-mayor-cantrell-issues-apology-for-1891-italian-lynching/ I-HEART RADIO: FULL VIDEO OF PRESENTATION

OTHER

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkcEY7zy0RQ YOUTUBE PRESENTATION BY ORDER SONS & DAUGHERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

3. ARTICLES CONNECTING THE LYNCHING WITH THE ADOPTIOIN OF COLUMBUS DAY

What Columbus Day Really Means
https://theamericanscholar.org/what-columbus-day-really-means/#.X0CyJNxKiyo

The Lynching That Gave Us Columbus Day
https://medium.com/@nevaer1/the-lynching-that-gave-us-columbus-day-eb5179b01aca

After 11 Italians were lynched in New Orleans in 1891, President Benjamin Harrison declared "Columbus Day" the following year to honor the contributions of Italians and Italian Americans in the U.S.

How Italians Became "White"
https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/10/12/opinion/columbus-day-italian-american-racism.html

4. Victims of the March 14, 1891 Lynching/Uprising at the OLD ORLEANS PARISH PRISON

The following people were lynched:

- Antonio Bagnetto, fruit peddler: Tried and acquitted.
- James Caruso, stevedore: Not tried.
- Loreto Comitis, tinsmith: Not tried.
- Rocco Geraci, stevedore: Not tried.
- Joseph P. Macheca, fruit importer: Tried and acquitted.
- Antonio Marchesi, fruit peddler: Tried and acquitted.
- Pietro Monasterio, cobbler: Mistrial.
- Emmanuele Polizzi, street vendor: Mistrial.
- Frank Romero, ward politician: Not tried.
- Antonio Scaffidi, fruit peddler: Mistrial.
- Charles Traina, rice plantation laborer: Not tried.

The following were killing inside the prison:

- Rocco Geraci
- Antonio Scaffidi
- Frank Romero
- Pietro Monastero
- James Caruso
- Charles Traina
- Loretta Cornitz
- Joseph Macheca

The following people managed to escape lynching by hiding inside the prison:

- John Caruso, stevedore: Not tried.
- Bastian Incardona, laborer: Tried and acquitted.
- Gaspare Marchesi, 14, son of Antonio Marchesi: Tried and acquitted.
- Charles Mantranga, labor manager: Tried and acquitted.
- Peter Natali, laborer: Not tried.
- Charles Pietza (or Pietzo), grocer: Not tried.
- Charles Patorno, merchant: Not tried.
- Salvatore Sinceri, stevedore: Not tried.A

5. NEW YORK TIMES: MARCH 16, 1891 EDITORIAL.

The *New York Times* published an editorial: **"The New Orleans Affair."** The northern newspaper approved***: "Nor can there be any doubt that the mob's victims were desperate ruffians and murderers. These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigation. Our own rattlesnakes are as good citizens as they. Our own murderers are men of feeling and nobility compared to them. These men of the Mafia killed Chief Hennessy. . . . Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to continue its bloody practices."***

6. AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL AMERICANS ON HOW *THE NEW YORK TIMES* FAILED THE ITALIAN AMERIAN COMMUNITY…and YOU (May 21, 2019)

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL AMERICANS ON HOW *THE NEW YORK TIMES* FAILED THE ITALIAN AMERIAN COMMUNITY…and YOU

Re: **LYNCHING OF 11 ITALIANS IN NEW ORLEANS**

On May 2, 2019, the signers of this OPEN LETTER hand delivered 30 copies of a 7-page letter with 68 pages of attachments, representing and endorsed by a coalition of more than 60 of the largest and most prominent Italian American organizations in the country. The packages were ear marked for the 30 members of the *New York Times* Executive Team and Editorial Board. The papers were received by a staff employee of one of the paper's counsels.

As of this moment, the *New York Times* has failed to call, respond in writing or in any way recognize the letter or the paper's outright violation of the 11 men, all of Sicilian background (some immigrants and some nationalized citizens), who were killed in a brutal manner by a mob of thousands.

We publish this letter to advise New York City residents, families of immigrants, and all in general how such a once revered newspaper has failed our community with such a caviler "no response," and what this means to you.

The letter called for the retraction and apology of a horrid and insulting editorial run by the paper only two days after the largest single lynching in the United States. The lynching took place at the Orleans Parish Prison in New Orleans on March 14, 1891. The initial letter explained in detail the events which led up to the mob rule and lynching that day. The underlying issues were presented with references from historical accounts, treatises, and other trusted resources, all of which supported the fact that the men were victims of a mob orchestrated by New Orleans city leaders and government officials alike.

On April 12th of this year, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell bravely appeared at a ceremony to offer an Official Proclamation of Apology with regard to the City official involvement at the time. Her forthright and moving presentation and speech gained the instant respect and honor of a host of Italian American leaders who were present from around the country.

The tragedy from 1891 was never popularized outside of the local New Orleans area. It became apparent from the research that the lynching had a major deleterious impact on the Italian American community not only in the New Orleans area, but around on a national level, and beyond. The then President and his Attorney General became involved with the issue and the Italian government withdrew their embassy representatives for about a year.

The New York Times reported a slanted version of the facts, maligned the Italian American community, and printed the following editorial on March 16, 1891, two days after the lynching:

> ***These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigations. Our own rattlesnakes are as good citizens as they…These men of the Mafia killed Chief Hennessy in circumstances of peculiar atrocity…Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to continue its bloody practices.***

As there was no justification for printing this material then, there is no justification for the paper's silence now. And, while 128 years have passed, there has never been a retraction or an apology from *The New York Times.* It's not too late, and the lack of a response is insulting and a quandary at the same time.

The Italian American community has made many strides in the United States; however, we have been the topic of scuttle, bias and bigotry in so many various ways. Our collective reaction has been relatively mild and complacent. ***No more.*** We now face active and vicious civil rights violations around the country by numerous local districts, counties and States, which have decided to eliminate Columbus Day, when Italian Americans cherish and celebrate their heritage and culture. The municipalities argue and convince themselves that Christopher Columbus' acts some 527 years ago no longer warrant having a day named after him, despite that fact that the day has become a symbolic day of "being" Italian American.

As Mayor Cantrell so aptly put it: "*What happen was wrong*." Stating that history could not be changed, she remarked that it was important to *"acknowledge the wrongs so that we can grow in the future.*" Our collective intent here is to ensure that our children and grandchildren no longer suffer from such vile attacks.

Our "fight" against bias is your "fight" against bias. The lesson is clear: all people from so many backgrounds simply want to live in peace, be respected and accept each other. When there is an attack on one, there is an attack on all.

When the wrong is so aptly placed in front of an educated and respected staff of 30 people and there is no response, we all should worry.

Respectfully yours,

Michael A. Santo, Esq.
Special Counsel

7. COLUMBUS: ACADEMIC ARTICLES/AUTHORS TO READ

MARY GRABAR

- https://marygrabar.com/
- BOOK: ***Debunking Howard Zinn: Exposing the Fake History That Turned a Generation against America*** was published by Regnery on August 20, 2019.
    - https://www.theahi.org/ahis-mary-grabar-why-i-wrote-debunking-howard-zinn/
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtNfqJx4OIM
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo21vOpvlqs
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEBa6nxMQVU
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YL7HvpJHKuE

CAROL DELANEY

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carol_Delaney
- http://www.carolldelaney.com/
- BOOK: *COLUMBUS and the Quest for Jerusalem: How Religion Drove the Voyages that led to America:* https://www.amazon.com/Columbus-Quest-Jerusalem-Religion-Voyages/dp/1439102376
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTwyAlmu4-w
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9F3JiwFimW0
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SE8br4MMjk

WILLIAM J. CONNELL

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_J._Connell_(historian)
- https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/167660
- https://www.academia.edu/4757291/Whos_Afraid_of_Columbus
- https://theamericanscholar.org/what-columbus-day-really-means/#.XzAI1ohKiw4

Rafael: Christopher Columbus: THE HERO, Defending Columbus from Modern Day Revisionism:

- https://www.hpb.com/products/christopher-columbus-the-hero-defending-columbus-from-modern-day-revisionism-9781548738129

8. CAMPAIGNS IN FAVOR OF COLUMBUS

Editorials:

- The Daily Egyptian: Rediscovering Columbus (October 8, 2002)
- New York Times: In Person: In Defense of Columbus (October 8, 2000)
- The American Scholar: What Columbus Day Really Means (October 4, 2012)

- Scranton Times-Tribune: Some Columbus Myths Worthy of Investigation (October 10, 2015)
- Democracy Journal: Why Columbus Day Happened (October 10, 2016)
- USA Today: Christopher Columbus XX: Hey America, my ancestor didn't cause your failings (October 9, 2017)
- Philadelphia Inquirer: History Shows Columbus Worth Celebrating (October 9, 2017)
- Riverhead Local: The real Columbus: There's hard evidence that the modern recast of the great explorer is a myth (October 7, 2018)
- Providence Journal: Critics of Columbus don't know the real story (October 6, 2019)
- New York Post: It's time to stop scapegoating Christopher Columbus (October 13, 2019)
- New York Daily News: The whole world should honor Columbus: Declare a UN holiday for the man who helped pioneer modernity (October 14, 2019)
- The College Fix: Howard Zinn Lied About Christopher Columbus-- Here's How (October 14, 2019)
- La Voce di New York: Italian Americans and the Impact of Their Five Centuries of History in America (May 17, 2020)
- La Voce di New York: George Floyd and…. Columbus? The Twin "Original Sins" of the Conquest of America (June 12, 2020)
- Merion West: Columbus Belongs Not Only to History (June 17, 2020)
- La Voce di New York: In America's "Novel", Italian-Americans and Columbus Are "Cheated" and "Beaten" (June 17, 2020)
- Shore News Network: Creating and passing the 1492 Act will protect Italian Americans from discriminatory animus and hold vandals and officials accountable (June 18, 2020)
- Providence Journal: Vandalizing Columbus Statues Insults Italian Americans (June 20, 2020)
- Scranton Times-Tribune: Scranton's Columbus Statue a Symbol of Pride (June 22, 2020)
- The Baltimore Sun: Columbus statues need context, not disrespect and desecration (June 26, 2020)
- Stamford Advocate: Opinion: Former Stamford Mayor Esposito says removal of Columbus statue would be 'an insult' (June 27, 2020)
- NewportRI.com: Newport's Columbus statue meant as a celebration of Italian culture (June 29, 2020)
- Miami Herald: Don't tear down Columbus because of this country's horribly racist past (June 30, 2020)
- Newport This Week: Statue Represents Italians' Love of America (July 2, 2020)
- Hartford Courant: It's time America confronts racism. But Columbus does not belong in this discussion (July 2, 2020)
- NJ.com: Columbus sailed into rightful place in history books (July 3, 2020)
- New Haven Register: Proud of Columbus (July 5, 2020)
- Baltimore Sun: Demolition of Columbus statue an insult to Italian Americans (July 6, 2020)

- McDuffie Progress: Poor Ole Christopher Columbus (July 7, 2020)
- Stamford Advocate: Daughter of Stamford's first Italian-American mayor says Columbus statue and park must stay in city (July 8, 2020)
- Broad + Liberty: Leftist Attacks on Columbus are Bad History (July 8, 2020)
- National Review: In Defense of Saints and Statues (July 10, 2020)
- Lowell Sun: Get history straight when arguing over Christopher Columbus (July 10, 2020)
- Worcester Telegram: Christopher Columbus Launched the American Dream (July 10, 2020)
- Daily Citizen: EDITORIAL: Myths, reality and perspective on Christopher Columbus, statues and protesters (July 10, 2020)
- The Baltimore Sun: Relearning Christopher Columbus (July 12, 2020)
- Cape Cod Times: Mob mentality driving statue discussions (July 15, 2020)
- Fra Noi: What Columbus Stands For (July 19, 2020)
- Fredericksburg.com: Clarifying the Columbus 'cancel' controversy (July 20, 2020)
- Tap Into Scotch Plains: Removing the Columbus Monument Would Be Disrespectful to Scotch Plains Italian-Americans (July 21, 2020)
- Republican American: Hate Crime Targets Italian Americans (July 21, 2020)
- Syracuse.com: Columbus monument honors struggles of Italian-Americans who built it (July 22, 2020)
- Chicago Tribune: Removal of the Columbus statues has left a hole in the heart of our Italian American community (July 24, 2020)
- The Morning Call: Attacks on Columbus Unfair, Unfounded (July 31, 2020)
- Suburban Chicagoland: Taking down the Columbus Statue is an act of racism (August 3, 2020)
- Roanoke.com: Canova: Christopher Columbus Monuments (August 3, 2020)
- The Salem News: Don't shun Columbus (August 3, 2020)
- Staten Island Live: Let Columbus Stand (August 5, 2020)
- Wicked Local Beverly: Keep Christopher Columbus's Name, History Alive (August 6, 2020)
- Rrstar.com: Trump Stands Up for Italian Heritage (August 6, 2020)
- Intellectual Takeout: Abolishing History From the Classroom Is What Got Us Into This Mess (August 6, 2020)
- Wicked Local Wellesley: Our Campaign for Inclusion and Respect (August 8, 2020)
- Youngstown Vindicator: Columbus should be honored, not defiled (August 9, 2020)
- Chicago Now: When Symbols Go Bad (August 9, 2020)
- Leavenworth Times: Statues Stand for Something (August 16, 2020)
- Fra Noi: Fighting Fiction with Facts (August 16, 2020)
- The Conversation: Ancient cancel cultures: The defacement of statues in America replicates a tradition going back millennia (August 19, 2020)

News Articles:

- Anthropologist says Christopher Columbus critics have their history wrong (April 29, 2019)

- Don’t tear down Columbus statues; use them to confront history and trigger ‘reckoning,’ Lightfoot says (June 18, 2020)
- Sons of Italy of Hammonton Relocates Christopher Columbus Statue (June 19, 2020)
- Christopher Columbus Name Won’t Be Changed at Wisconsin Catholic High School (June 19, 2020)
- Dueling Petitions Address Utica’s Columbus Statue (June 19, 2020)
- How Chistopher Columbus Came to Stand in Boston’s North End (June 19, 2020)
- Online Petition Started in East Hanover to Save the Christopher Columbus Statue (June 21, 2020)
- As Columbus statues fall across the country, Easton has no plans to remove its sculpture (June 22, 2020)
- Dueling Petitions Address Columbus Statue in Norwich (June 22, 2020)
- Columbus Statues Should Come Down, Activists Say — But Mayor, Italian Americans Want Them To Stay (June 23, 2020)
- Chicago’s Italian American Community Reacts to Defacement of Christopher Columbus Statues (June 23, 2020)
- President Trump to Issue Executive Order on Statue Vandalism (June 24, 2020)
- The Story Behind the Christopher Columbus Statue in Denver (June 24, 2020)
- Italian-Americans’ Plea: Don’t Tear Down Columbus Statues (June 25, 2020)
- Opponents of removing Columbus statue rally in New Haven (June 24, 2020)
- Syracuse’s Columbus statue debate: Why we should remove it and why we should keep it (June 25, 2020)
- Baltimore County Republicans, Italian Americans Call For Protection Of City Columbus Monuments (June 26, 2020)
- Italian Americans call removal of Columbus statues in Chicago ‘insensitive’ to their history (July 26, 2020)
- State delegates, Italian American activists calling for protection of Columbus statues (June 26, 2020)
- Biden: Feds obligated to protect Washington, Jefferson, Columbus statues (June 30, 2020)
- New Haven Italian-American group wants police protection for Columbus pedestal (July 1, 2020)
- Cardinal Dolan Decries Statue Destruction, Warns Against Dangerous “Cultural Revolution” (July 2, 2020)
- Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition Successfully Defeats Proposal to Eliminate Federal Columbus Day Holiday (July 6, 2020)
- Italian-American leaders plan to restore, relocate Columbus statue (July 7, 2020)
- Denver's Italian-American community fights to keep Columbus Park from being renamed (July 8, 2020)
- Italian restaurant owner puts up controversial Christopher Columbus billboard in Milford (July 8, 2020)
- Denver’s Italian-American community fights to keep Columbus Park from being renamed (July 9, 2020)

- Effort underway to save and repair beheaded Christopher Columbus statue in Waterbury (July 9, 2020)
- Columbus donors sue Penn's Landing agency to keep monument; commissions seek comments on South Philly statue removal (July 13, 2020)
- Baltimore Italian American Group Pens Letter to Nancy Pelosi (July 13, 2020)
- Tap Into Scotch Plains/Fanwood: Columbus: Fact vs. Fiction (July 14, 2020)
- Easton's Christopher Columbus statue topic of virtual discussion about public art (July 15, 2020)
- Disputes over Christopher Columbus statues play out in court (July 15, 2020)
- Supporters rally for Columbus statue in Syracuse. It's about 1934, they say, not 1492 (July 16, 2020)
- Statue Supporters Rally At Columbus Circle (Syracuse) (July 16, 2020)
- 9-Foot Tall Christopher Columbus Statue To Remain On Ohio Statehouse Grounds Until At Least 2025 (July 16, 2020)
- Supporters hold rally to keep Christopher Columbus Monument in Syracuse (July 16, 2020)
- Christopher Columbus Statue To Remain On Ohio Statehouse Grounds For Now (July 17, 2020)
- Italian-Americans in Bridgeport demand return of Columbus statue to community park (July 19, 2020)
- Worcester's Christopher Columbus statue stays, as City Council votes against removal (July 21, 2020)
- Knights of Columbus pick Christopher Columbus statue from Baltimore's Inner Harbor, plan to reproduce monument (July 21, 2020)
- Baltimore Italian American Community Plans New Statue to Honor Columbus (July 22, 2020)
- Italian-American organizations march in support of Christopher Columbus statue (July 22, 2020)
- Scotch Plains Votes to Keep Columbus Monument in Place (July 22, 2020)
- 'What's next?' Rage greets city plan to remove Marconi Plaza's Christopher Columbus statue (July 22, 2020)
- Worcester Will Not Move Christopher Columbus Statue (July 22, 2020)
- Some Italian-Americans outraged over removal of Christopher Columbus statues in Chicago (July 24, 2020)
- Italian American groups plan celebration of Christopher Columbus in Woodland Park (July 25, 2020)
- Crowd Rallies In Defense Of Christopher Columbus Statues (July 26, 2020)
- Italian-American groups to host 'Rediscover Columbus' NJ event (July 26, 2020)
- Bridgeport Council to meet on returning Christopher Columbus statue (July 27, 2020)
- Meet the people who are buying America's rejected statues (August 1, 2020)
- Italian-American organization member defends Columbus statue (August 1, 2020)
- On this Day: 1492: Columbus Sets Sail (August 3, 2020)
- Italian heritage group asks Kearny to protect Columbus statue with anti-graffiti 'film' (August 4, 2020)

- Take that, Chicago: Springfield Italian American group mounts boycott over Columbus statues (August 6, 2020)
- Some Members Of Italian-American Community Want Columbus Statues Put Back On Display (August 6, 2020)
- Motion filed after Philadelphia Art commission votes to remove Christopher Columbus statue, place it in temporary storage (August 12, 2020)
- Activists calling for cities to preserve Christopher Columbus statues in Boston, other cities (August 13, 2020)
- As monuments to Christopher Columbus come down across the US, Italian-Americans campaign to protect a symbol of 'culture heritage' (August 13, 2020)
- NYPD: Columbus Statue gets 24-Hour Police Protection in Belmont (August 15, 2020)
- Members Of Italian-American Community Call For Return Of Columbus Statues (August 16, 2020)
- Did Christopher Columbus bring syphilis to Europe? Study puts myth to rest (August 17, 2020)
- City aldermen agree to put Columbus statue's fate to voters at November election (August 18, 2020)

Videos:

- Columbus: Fact & Fiction
- The Daily Wire: Ep. 37: Christopher Columbus Actually Was a Great Man
- In Defense of Columbus: An Exaggerated Evil

Documentaries:

- Columbus Day Legacy. By Bennie Klain (Navajo). A TricksterFilms, LLC Production, 2011. 27 minutes. DVD format, color. (Review attached)

Essays:

- De las Casas' Writings on Columbus by José Gueits Romero
- Killing Columbus: An Attack on an Italian American Heritage Icon by Ernest R. Nuzzo, Esq.
- Columbus and the Great Contact: Before and After by Ernest R. Nuzzo, Esq.
- Of Statues and Symbolic Murder by Wilfred M. McClay
- Christopher Columbus: The Unknown Lateral Thinker by Dr. Rudy Magnan
- Why Columbus Day Matters to Italian Americans by Bill Cerrutti, Executive Director, Italian Cultural Society, Sacramento

Podcasts/Radio Shows:

- Ron Onesti on Christopher Columbus statues: 'There has to be a proper process' (July 31, 2020)
- Shaping Opinion Podcast: Who Was Christopher Columbus? (July 20, 2020)
- Cats at Night with John Catsimatidis: American Way of Life Under Attack (July 1, 2020)
- The Brian Lehrer Show: What Columbus Statues Really Mean (October 9, 2017)

- Italian American Podcast: IAP 112: When Did Columbus Become an Italian American? An Honest Exploration of the History of the Columbus Day Holiday
- Italian American Podcast: IAP 114: Can't We All Just Get Along? Varied Voices Revisit the Legacy of Christopher Columbus
- Italian American Podcast: IAP 152: Conversations on Columbus: Introduction
- Italian American Podcast: IAP 153: Conversations on Columbus: Straight from the Source

Media Outlets with Extensive Pro Columbus Coverage:

- We the Italians
- PRIMO Magazine
- Giornale Italoamericano
- Italian Tribune
- La Gazzetta Italiana

International Coverage in English

- Italian Americans say Chicago mayor Lori Lightfoot is 'giving in to violence and cancel culture' by removing statues of Christopher Columbus and accuse her of 'siding with a destructive minority'
- Things That Seem Incredible: A New Columbus Letter
- Christopher Columbus did not bring syphilis to Europe: Sexually transmitted disease was spreading across the continent almost 100 years BEFORE the Italian navigator first set sail for the Americas, study reveals

News from Italy:

- Assalto a Cristoforo Colombo nell'America Democratica (August 5, 2020)
- Capone (Ugl): "Uno sfregio agli italiani la distruzione della statua di Colombo" (July 13, 2020)
- Christopher Magazine

Miscellaneous:

- Ad in the Washington Times from the Patriotic Veterans of America

Books:

- *Columbus Day et les Italiens de New York.* By Marie-Christine Michaud. Paris: Ed. Presse Universitaire Paris-Sorbonne, 2011. 227 pages. (Review in English attached)
- *Religion in Latin America: A Documentary History* by Lee M. Penyak and Walter J. Petry. Orbis Books, 2007. (Primary Document 8/ Page 19 focuses on Columbus)
- *Religion and Society in Latin America* by Lee M. Penyak and Walter J. Petry. Orbis Books, 2009. (Pages 28-29 focus on Columbus)
- *The Life of Christopher Columbus* by J.J. Barry. Loreto Publications.
- *Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem: How Religion Drove the Voyages that Led to America* by Carol Delaney. Free Press, 2012.

- *Debunking Howard Zinn: Exposing the Fake History That Turned a Generation against America* by Mary Grabar. Regnery History, 2020.
- *Christopher Columbus The Hero: Defending Columbus From Modern Day Revisionism* by Rafael Ortiz. Create Space, 2017.
- *Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus* by Samuel Eliot Morison. Little, Brown, and Company, 1991.
- *The Four Voyages: Being His Own Log-Book, Letters and Dispatches with Connecting Narratives* by Christopher Columbus. Penguin Classics, 1992.
- *The Enemies of Christopher Columbus: Answers to Critical Questions About the Spread of Western Civilization* by Thomas A. Bowden. Paper Tiger Inc., 2003.
- *The Life of the Admiral Christopher Columbus: by his son Ferdinand* by Benjamin Keen, Editor. Rutgers University Press, 1992.

Academic Essays

- ***Who's Afraid of Columbus?*** *by William Connell* Italian Americana, 31.2 (Summer 2013), pp. 136-147
- ***Columbus Day, a Celebration Revisited by The Denver Post, 2000-2007*** *by Marie-Christine Michaud*, in John Paul Russo et Teri Ann Tengiveno (dir), Italian Passages, AIHA, Denver, USA, p. 88-107 (2010)
- ***The Columbus Day Parade in New York City: a New Form of Marketing or an Ethnic Festival?*** *by Marie-Christine Michaud*, in Stefano Luconi et Dennis Barone (dir), Small Towns, Big Cities, AIHA, New Haven, USA, p. 86-104 (2010)
- **Columbus's name in the space of American collective memory: from consecration to desecration** by Luisa Caiazzo, University of Basilicata, Italy. (2017) Downloaded from Academia.edu, 12 pp.
- **Christopher Columbus in United States Historiography: Biography as Projection** by Carla Rahn Phillips. (1992) Downloaded from Academia.edu, 20 pp.
- The Triumph of American Spectacle: New York City's 1892 Columbian Celebration by David Carletta. (2008) Downloaded from Academia.edu, 24 pp.
- **"Rediscovering Columbus in Nineteenth-Century American Textbooks"**, in S. Carvalho et F. Gemenne, Nations and their Histories. Constructions and Representations. Palgrave McMillan, 2009, p.93-110. Downloaded from Academia.edu.
- **Irving's Columbus and Hemispheric American History** by Jordan Wingate. (2017) Downloaded from Academia.edu, 34 pp.
- **A Content Analysis of Selected Secondary History Textbooks' Portrayals of Christopher Columbus, Hernan Cortes, and Francisco Pizarro** by Jebadiah Lillejord. (2014) Downloaded from Academia.edu, 10 pp.
- **Columbus's Ultimate Goal: Jerusalem** by Carol Delaney (Date not listed) Downloaded from Academia.edu, 34 pp.
- **It's a Strange Thing: The Millennial Blindness of Christopher Columbus** by John Hubers (Date not listed) Downloaded from Academia.edu, 32 pp.
- **Reading Cristóbal Colón within Millennial Iberia** by Seàn Kearns, University of Liverpool (2014). Downloaded from Academia.edu, 50 pp.

- **Christopher Columbus, a dual identity: citizen of Valencia and "Genoese of nation"** by Francesc L. Albardaner (2016). Downloaded from Academia.edu, 17 pp.
- **And there was Honey: Translating Contact into Discovery in the Columbus Letters** by Monica Espaillat Lizardo, University of Toronto (2014). Downloaded from Academia.edu, 21 pp.
- **Reading Columbus** by Margarita Zamora (1996). Downloaded from Academia.edu, 7 pp.
- **Columbus's Gift: Representations of Grace and Wealth and the Enterprise of the Indies.** Modern Languages Notes 119 (2004): 201-25 by Elvira Vilches. Downloaded from Academia.edu, 26 pp.
- **1492: Europe in America and America in Europe: Or, Traveling Metaphors in the Discoveries of America** by Boris Vejdovsky (2008). Downloaded from Academia.edu, 15 pp.

Social Media Posts

Instagram:

- Zio Ciccio Cinema: How Do You Feel About Columbus Statues?
- New Theory Magazine: Should Italian-Americans Defend Christopher Columbus

Facebook

- Michael Knowles torches anti-Columbus "cowards, ingrates, & moral narcissists"

On Howard Zinn

- Reclaiming History From Howard Zinn (May 17, 2019)

9: YOUTUBE VIDEOS AS TO THE "APOLOGY"

BRIED SEGMENT ON THE HISTORY OF THE LYNCHING

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkcEY7zy0RQ

MAYOR CANTRELL'S PRESENTATION

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEwK-gtqmvw

save columbus statue

betty merti <bjpmert@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 9:13 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:
The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.
For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.
Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.
The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Respectfully yours,
Betty Merti

The Columbus monument in Pittsburgh is not just a statue

Ralph Contini <rcontiniunico@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 11:41 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Pittsburgh Art Commission,

The Columbus monument in Pittsburgh is not just a statue, but a cultural symbol of the Italian American community and removing it will cause irreparable harm. It will deprive us of liberty, equal protection and freedom of expression. Liberty does not just mean "free from bodily restraint" but also "free from undue government interference". The Italian American community of Pittsburgh is requesting the City respect and protect our civil rights and not entertain individuals or groups that seek to strip us of our civil rights.

Local officials in Pittsburgh are under the **duty to act** to protect their residents from discriminatory animus especially when the laws protecting them are so clearly established. Any individual, resident, or organization that attacks an ethnic group and seeks to deprive them of their rights, privileges or immunities should cause alarm. Everyone has the right to celebrate their culture in Pittsburgh but nobody has the right to request an elimination of another culture.

History is History. It cannot be revised.

Cav. Ralph A. Contini
UNICO National 2nd Vice President
and Columbus Day Chair

--

Cav. Ralph A. Contini
UNICO National 2nd Vice President
and Columbus Day Chair
Office 201-909-8975
Cell 201-960-7131
Fax 201-909-8884

Virus-free. www.avg.com

Columbus Statue

Stacey West <st.davids@verizon.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 12:07 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Arts Commission of the City of Pittsburgh,

I understand there are requests, or possibly demands, to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus from Schenley Park.

I am one who believes in knowing our history and those who have come before us. I am saddened that the voices of a few are effective in promoting the revision and erasure of our national history. The disappearance of our statues contributes to that effort.

I ask that the voices of those who wish to retain our history, including the display of statues in our public squares, be considered when meetings such as these take place. Please do not remove the statue. Thank you. Regards, Stacey West

Christopher Columbus

Robert J. Bishop <rbishop@pittabishop.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 8:59 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Angelo Vivolo (avivolo@vivolonyc.com) <avivolo@vivolonyc.com>; pittabishopmembers <pittabishopmembers@pittabishop.com>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. Historically this attack on Columbus originated in the early 20th century as an effort to deflect the repeal of Jim Crow Laws and as an anti-Catholic, anti-Italian campaign.

For months, concerned citizens across the country and especially members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination and are uniquely inclusive and pro-American. We refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

I urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Bishop, Esq.
Pitta LLP
Pitta Bishop Del Giorno LLC

212 652 3824
917 856 9956

The Pittsburgh Art Commission

Carol Bires <carolbires@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 12:37 PM

To: Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; sally.stadleman@pittsburghpa.gov <sally.stadleman@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>**

Dear Friends,
I am a born & raised "Pittsburgher" who loves my city and my country who is asking for your help.
Please stop the charge in Pittsburgh and around our country against Christoper Columbus's history and statues. During this very challenging time, is it not better to strengthen relationships rather than tear them down.
I ask that you open all your hearts to not only think of Christopher Columbus but all statues that have a meaningful place in our history to our nation. We are the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave. God Bless America us
Thank you,
Carol
Sent from my iPhone

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

Tiziano Dossena <editoreusa@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 7:04 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Tiziano Thomas Dossena
Editorial Director
Idea Graphics Editorial Group

Columbus statue

Anthony Orrico <tony.orrico.usa@gmail.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 4:12 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Mayor Peduto,

I understand that the city council is debating whether to remove a statue of Christopher Columbus from Schenley Park. I urge you to fight it with all your heart.

Your last name tells me that our forefathers were *paesani*. So, this is your heritage as well as mine. I understand the pressure being applied by anarchic left-wing groups to remove the statue. However, you must resist them if you are at all proud of yourself and your achievements for the following reasons:

- Italian immigrants were mostly strivers, who passed this quality on to their progeny. They helped you get where you are. Do not betray them and the Italian-American community, which I know is quite large in this beautiful city.
- Symbols count, and the statue is a symbol of all that Italians have done to improve American society. Don't spit in the face of your own kind.
- Columbus's "crimes" are exaggerated. Most natives died because of infectious diseases that Columbus's crew inadvertently carried, not by intentional homicide. His treatment of them was consistent with the times. Natives in the Caribbean, Continental America, and Africa treated subdued peoples much worse, as was the custom in those days.
- Italian immigrants suffered, too. Some were lynched in New Orleans and elsewhere, and some were *de facto* enslaved by owners of the railroads that criss-cross your state. Should we tear up the railroads or New Orleans? The statue is a symbol that, in spite of all the discrimination, Italian immigrants survived, thrived, and became embodiments of the American dream. Do not allow this travesty!
- Black Americans, Original Americans, Italian-Americans, and all other Americans deserve to have symbols of celebration of their culture. If Columbus's statue can be removed, so can Dr. Martin Luther King's, Sitting Bull's, or whomever detractors wish, since all leaders have unsavory deeds along with their accomplishments. This nonsense has to stop.
- I am sure most citizens are proud to have you as Mayor. It is time for you to be proud of your heritage, cognizant of your responsibility, to man up and fight this indignity. It is your time in history to be famous---or **infamous**! I trust you will do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony J. Orrico

Italian American Discrimination/ Columbus' Statue Hearing

Official: Christopher Columbus <officialchristophercolumbus@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 5:38 PM

To: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; sally.stadman@pittsburghpa.gov <sally.stadman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** erika.strassberger@pittsburghpa.gov <erika.strassberger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is from Rafael Ortiz and, contrary to most Columbus supporters, I'm neither Italian-American nor Catholic. In fact, I'm Hispanic of Taino descent. The same Indigenous people Columbus allegedly annihilated.

Long before all this controversy against Columbus became mainstream, I took the time to research and read every primary source of the era, since I believe we should not celebrate anyone who is evil. To my surprise, I've found Columbus to be a good man and, indeed, a hero. I also discovered that the same activists who want to rename Columbus Day are the same people who want to rename Thanksgiving Day as "UnThanksgiving Day," making similar accusations against the Pilgrims. That's when I realized this is not about Columbus, but about demonizing American history in general.

As my first book was being published in 2017, the first wave of vandalizations of Columbus statues began, with people demanding Columbus Day to be renamed or eliminated. Just as I suspect, they started with Columbus, followed by Washington, Jefferson, and then cleverly linking Columbus with Confederate statues, even though Columbus never reached North America, nor lived here during the time of the Civil War. Ironically, the KKK hated Columbus and his statues in the 1920s because he was NOT a racist, while today he is hated because "he is a racist." Which one is it?

What you are seeing is evidence of how ignorant some people are and how some people react without taking the time to examine evidence. Something similar happened in the late 1800s when several Italians were lynched because a mob reacted to false accusations. Today, history repeats as some people are reacting to the hoax that Columbus was "evil" and Italian-Americans are once again being discriminated against and their heritage "lynched" by politicians who are trying to appease an irrational mob.

Just imagine if this was a protest against Martin Luther King Jr. with his statues desecrated, his legacy distorted, and people demanding his holiday to be renamed! It would be taken as racial discrimination, and rightly so. Now just imagine a city council claiming that they are not against African Americans, but that they only object to Martin Luther King Jr. How do you think the African American community would take such an insult? Why do the same to Italian-Americans with Columbus, Columbus Day, or his statues? If it wasn't for Columbus you would not even be here!

There is so much misinformation out there, like some groups who want to rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day, when we already have two of them: One is called International Indigenous Peoples' Day, celebrated in August. The other is known as Native American Heritage Day, which is celebrated on the Friday after Thanksgiving. In addition, November is Indigenous Peoples MONTH! In other words, there is no need to rename Columbus Day. But if we should not celebrate Columbus Day because of war, conquest, and slavery, then by the same token Indigenous Peoples Day should not celebrated because the natives used to do the same, with the addition of cannibalism and human sacrifices. The problem we are having is that some activists are dividing Italians vs. Indigenous People when that is not necessary.

As for the allegations against Columbus, they are all false. Columbus was not a racist, nor was he evil or genocidal. He did not cut the hands off the natives or mutilate anyone. These allegations come from revisionists and propagandists and their tactics are well elaborated. For example, some of the allegations come from a book called "A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies" by Fray Las Casas, except the book is not about Columbus, but about events that happened after Columbus was out of office or dead. Some of the locations mentioned in the book are places Columbus never visited or settled in. Another "source" (out of his context) is from another book ("History of the Indies") by the same aforementioned author describing some mistreatments by some Spaniards, except they are using (again) the wrong timeline of history. Another "source" they are using comes from a letter written by a political rival of Columbus where he accused Columbus of abusing the colonists. That's the dossier they used to remove Columbus from office. The problem is that the accusations were false and the King and the Queen of Spain (and no one who knew Columbus well) didn't believe the charges. In fact, the King and Queen compensated Columbus and arrested the mutineers who slandered and arrested him. Another "source" is a letter Columbus wrote to a friend where revisionists claim Columbus admitted he was selling girls as young as nine

years old for sex. Except the letters says nothing of the sort and the number "9 to 11" where the number of women who were for sale as slaves, by the way, against Columbus' authority. In other words, Columbus was not admitting what he was allegedly doing, but he was condemning and reporting what the mutineers were doing.

It's ridiculous to think that if Columbus was a "pedophile" as some revisionists claim, he would write an incriminating letter to a woman (to whom the letter was addressed), who in turn was also a friend of the Queen of Spain. There is more, but it would take a book, and I already wrote three of them, exposing all this elaborate hoax. I often challenge people to prove to me how Columbus was "evil" so I can join their cause and protest his statues, but so far no one has. If any of you have a difficult question about Columbus, I'll be more than happy to help you to answer. In the meantime, I hope that your city council do the right thing and stop this systematic racism that is happening right now against Italian-Americans. Italian-American lives also matter.

Sincerely,

Rafael Ortiz

http://www.officialchristophercolumbus.com/

SAVING OUR AMERICAN/ITALIAN HERITAGE

Ann Chiappisi <franna@verizon.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 8:30 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

WHAT PURPOSE CAN IT SERVE TO DESTROY OUR COUNTRY FROM THE INSIDE???????? YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT IF WE AMERICANS SAY NOTHING, IT DOES NOT STOP HERE.

THOUGH THIS TOO SHALLL PASS, THE TIME IS MADE RIPE FOR THE NEXT WAVE OF ANGRY NO NOTHINGS TO THEN DESTROY WHATEVER THEY DEEM NECESSARY TO DO SO THAT THEY CAN GET OVER THEIR FRUSTRATIONS AWAITING THE NEXT.

TAKE A BREAK FROM THIS INSANITY, LISTEN TO YOUR INNARDS KNOWING FULL WELL NOW ITS US; YOUR TURN WILL COME NEXT THEN WHAT WILL YOU DO TO STOP THE MADNESS AS BY THIS TIME IT WILL HAVE EATEN INTO YOUR BONES.

BEFORE YOU VANDALIZE ANYTHING ASK YOURSELF WHAT PURPOSE WILL THIS SERVE; WILL IT MAKE ME A BETTER PERSON, A RICHER ONE, ONE WHO THEN CAN COME AND GO AS I PLEASE.....I DOUBT IT VERY MUCH.

YOU ALL ARE SETTING YOURSELVES UP FOR A MENTAL LYNCHING. YOUR THOUGHTS WILL NO LONGER BE YOURS, YOUR CHILDREN WILL NOT OBEY LAW AND ORDER LET ALONE YOU.

THINK BEFORE YOU ACT.....THINK.....THINK.....THINK.....

AND MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON ALL OF US.

THE LIGHT OF GOD SURROUNDS YOU
THE LOVE OF GOD ENFOLDS YOU
THE POWER OF GOD PROTECTS YOU
WHEREVER YOU ARE GOD IS

AND SO IT IS.....

Christopher Columbus statues

rosemary Deluca <rosemarydeluca13@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 2:50 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Sincerely,

Rosemary De Luca, 2nd Generation Italian American

Save Columbus

jocare <jocare@verizon.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 9:34 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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JoAnn Carlucci Ondrey
National Councilor &
Board Member of
Italian Sons & Daughters of America

Thomas Ondrey
Officer of Lodge #12 of
Italian Sons & Daughters of America

Florence Spagnolo
former Orator of
Italian Sons & Daughters of America &
National Councilor

Renee Carlucci
Treasurer of Lodge #12 of
Italian Sons & Daughters of America

SAVE COLUMBUS

VINCENT PIRAINO <vincentdp67@msn.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 11:00 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** erica.strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov <erica.strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters!

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for!

Respectfully,
Vincent Piraino
PROUD Italian American veteran and Patriot

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

2001 SOM Center Rd.
Gates Mills, Ohio 44040
August 24, 2020

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

I write in reaction to the reported vandalism that has damaged the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. It is with strong conviction that I encourage the members of the Pittsburgh Art Commission, the Mayor of Pittsburgh, and the members of Pittsburgh City Council to **vote in favor of protecting the Frank Vittor statue of Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park.**

Without doubt, "Art," in all its forms, is an immeasurable tool of learning and I have learned much about Frank Vittor through the current events that pertain to the Columbus monument of Schenley Park.

A public monument is a visible form of art that is meant to act as a force in social, political, scientific, historic and artistic discovery. In addition to the historic accomplishments of the courageous Italian navigator and explorer that the granite and bronze statue of Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park majestically accentuates, said statue artistically exemplifies "the preference for the heroic and colossal" often visible in the works of Frank Vittor – a renowned sculptor who was born in Italy and came to reside in Pittsburgh.

Sadly, the hateful acts of vandalism upon Columbus statues in cities across the United States have now become yet another benchmark in the controversial campaign by anti-Columbus activists to publicly defame Christopher Columbus, as well as to publicly discredit all that Columbus' heroic maritime accomplishments represent to most Americans – especially Italian Americans.

Please keep in mind that Columbus was revered among American Catholics during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when anti-Catholic sentiments existed in the United States and immigrants were marginalized. The images of Columbus as a courageous explorer and a man of the Catholic faith, that were vivid in the societal reality of the past, still prevail today among Italian Americans.

I believe Frank Vittor's sculpture of Columbus also symbolizes the journey to a "New World" that is made by the immigrant, as Vittor himself was an immigrant from Italy, like both of my parents and many Pittsburghers.

Unfortunately, the projection of the "crude, rough ways of life" of the past is being used to justify the impetus to voice the sentiments of anti-Columbus activists who are aggressively pursuing and vocally advocating rights for Native American peoples by attacking what is sacred to Italian Americans: faith and heritage.

In fairness to Americans who view Columbus as a symbol of the discovery of the New World, the personified image of America must not be eradicated just because a fifteenth century explorer does not embellish the politically correct societal views of the twenty-first century. It is shameful that a popular and honored national symbol is being unjustly degraded as a scapegoat to represent the source of all the ills suffered by the Native American peoples.

The mono-centric perspective of history that anti-Columbus activists promote does not work to mend and improve relations with other cultures. Rather, it is evident that the displaced bitterness voiced today, over events that occurred more than five centuries ago, only fuels division in a society that should take pride in celebrating multicultural diversity.

To remove the statue of Columbus in Schenley Park would be to reward and fuel the unlawful act of vandalism. Will the removal of the Columbus statue lead to more vandalism and to the eventual elimination of all public monuments, including those that honor Native American leaders?

And so I question:

To what end do we go to appease activists of a particular group without infringing upon what instills the cultural pride of another group?

Do we hide or remove all images that reflect stereotypical submissive poses and scenes of exploitation and repression?

Do we conceal from public view pre-Columbian images that depict human sacrifice of peoples of the Americas by peoples of the Americas?

Do we conceal from public view the paintings, tapestries and other forms of art in world museums that depict scenes of bloody historic battles?

Do we conceal from public view the photographs and films that recount the horrors of the Holocaust and world wars?

And what of the images of submission, exploitation and repression that document global events that have resulted in the massacre of innocent lives, do we conceal those images, too?

How would we feel if decisions were made to conceal from public view the depictions of The Flagellation and The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ? Would we hide or remove from public sight all statues, paintings, murals, photographs, books and religious relics?

Does society not benefit most by the compromise made between peoples whose individual perceptions of culture and environment differ, but yet unite for a common purpose — that of creating meaningful existence and positive progress for all beings? Should we not work together and lead by encouraging civil discourse that results in a better understanding of the historical events that have brought us to the present?

We need fair leadership that promotes a future that is rich in diversity and open to discovery. We do not live in an ideal world, but we can certainly work on bridging differences, in this case through a 50-foot-tall sculpture of a man of the Renaissance – a time of great social change and "rebirth".

With social division we sow the seeds of hatred of other cultures and, ultimately, we destroy the positive progress for the peaceful coexistence of diverse cultures. **A just solution to end the persistent scrutiny over Columbus and Columbus Day would be to establish a separate calendar date to honor the Indigenous People and their rich history.**

Apart from the controversial debate of what Columbus symbolizes in today's diverse society, to remove Frank Vittor's sculpture of Columbus is to also remove a part of the history of the City of Pittsburgh. Why not enhance the history of the City of Pittsburgh by installing in Schenley Park a statue that represents the Indigenous People in the manner viewed as sacred to their culture?

May the outcome of Pittsburgh's City Council's meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, support and protect the democratic freedom to celebrate heritage, traditions, history and cultural pride that Italian Americans associate with the heroic explorer and with Columbus Day.

I close by again emphasizing my hope, and the collective hopes of many others, that you will vote to protect one of Frank Vittor's greatest works of art that represents the life and voyages of Christopher Columbus – symbols of pride for Italian Americans, and a symbol that I believe serves well to encourage discovery and reason.

To paraphrase a quote by William Faulkner: 'The past is not gone; it remains forever present in how we perceive it, understand it and coexist with it.'

Respectfully,

Beatrice Colagè-Zukowski

Il Cenacolo Italiano di Cleveland, President, Archivist, Program Co-chair
https://ilcenacoloitalianodicleveland.org
Italian Sons and Daughters of America, Cleveland District Council Deputy
Italian Cultural Garden Foundation, Board member; Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation, member
Italian American Women's Network, Archivist
Italian American Cultural Foundation, member
Spanish teacher, MA Curriculum and Instruction of Modern Languages

ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
STATE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
4102 N.W. 78th Terrace
Coral Springs, Florida 33065
754-368-1670

Pittsburgh Arts Commission:

I am the co-chair of the State of Florida Order Sons and Daughters in America (OSDIA) Commission for Social Justice. This is a letter to all cities on the verge of doing irreparable harm to the memory of a great man, Christopher Columbus, a man of vision, conviction, dedication and courage. For many years now, cities and states across our nation have been presented with false, misleading and inaccurate stories of Christopher Columbus in an attempt to eliminate Columbus Day as a national holiday, replacing it with Indigenous Persons Day to honor native Americans, and to remove statues raised in his honor.

We have no desire to prevent all native Americans from honoring their heritage. We, as Italian Americans, would also like to honor our heritage.

However, this knee jerk reaction by cities and states to eliminate Columbus Day as a holiday, remove any statue of Christopher Columbus, re-name streets, squares and other facilities which honor him, while appearing politically correct, is definitely political but far from correct. Christopher Columbus was great man who achieved what no one else did or possibly could have at a time when all others thought it could not be done – the opening of a trade route to the West and proving the Earth round. It is for this accomplishment that we honor him.

We as Italian Americans have felt prejudice, discrimination and injustice both in action by others and in the foul names bestowed upon us since our forefathers first passed through Ellis Island to build a better life for their families and leave something more than they had to their children and heirs. We are not members of any organized criminal family or enterprise. Instead, we assimilated into the American culture, through education and hard work became professionals such as doctors, attorneys, engineers, distinguishing in the arts, sciences and entertainment, and dying in World War I, World War II, Korea and Viet Nam for our country. We are decent, hard working, tax-paying citizens attempting to live the American dream for which our forefathers emigrated to this country to give us. Are we to believe that by overcoming the prejudice we experienced as Italian immigrants through legal, peaceful means we are now punished by having our heroes maligned and their names removed from buildings and streets, having their monuments removed and national holidays in their name eliminated? The changing of the names of cities, streets, squares, eliminating national holidays and removing statues and other monuments to our heroes is not a policy change of which any politician should be proud.

It should be the priority of all honest community leaders, both those elected to office and otherwise on both sides of the issue, to meet with each other, discuss the reason we are at this state of affairs at this time and work openly together toward a peaceful compromise.

Accordingly, toward this end, please reconsider eliminating the Schenley Park statue of Columbus. With many other days in the year, certainly any other day would work as Indigenous Persons Day. We welcome the opportunity to meet in person to address our concerns.

Very truly yours,

Gregory F. Esposito, Co-Chair

Save Columbus Statue

Ants Moreno <modulock500@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 8:23 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.

We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Sincerely,

Ants Marino

Proposed Removal of Christopher Columbus Statue

Anthony Poli <tonypoli@me.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 4:37 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the members of the City of Pittsburgh Arts Commission:

I am a resident of Pittsburgh. From my home on Ellsworth Avenue, I can walk or ride my bike past the statue of Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park, and I occasionally stop to look at it and admire it.

I have a couple of personal connections to this monument. As a young boy, I helped raise money for the monument. Many of us of Italian descent contributed to raising the funds to erect and install this statue. Italian Americans of my parents' and grandparents' generations sent what money they could to this cause.

The sculptor, an Italian immigrant named Frank Vittor, had a brother, Tony. Tony Vittor was employed for quite a long time at the Studios of Joseph Poli, an ecclesiastical arts studio located on Fifth Avenue, a couple of blocks from Fifth Avenue High School. My father graduated from Fifth Ave., a classmate of Sophie Friedman, who later married a guy named Masloff. Joseph Poli was my great uncle, and when he died relatively young, my grandfather, Anthony Poli, for whom I am named in the Italian tradition, took over the business. My father, an architect who later graduated from the Carnegie Institute of Technology, was one of those in charge of the business as I grew up. I worked there as a kid, not really doing anything productive, sweeping up and things like that, but I often interacted with Tony Vittor and Batista Zini, the plaster artists who created the statuary in the studio. I even met Frank once.

The statue is a memorial to Christopher Columbus, a great navigator, an Italian, of whom we were most proud. The current fascination with despoiling his reputation with having brought evil white Europeans to this North American landmass is puzzling to me. He was searching for a different way to reach the markets of Asia, when he ran into a whole new continent.

The petition to Mayor Peduto to remove the statue describes the peoples here as "civilized" and describes the sordid deeds of Columbus toward the Native Americans. I studied what were then called American Indians while in college. I was a research assistant to Chet Sprague, a Professor of Architecture at MIT, during one of my years there as an undergraduate. The North American tribes were not the benign, civilized, bucolic peoples that I thought they were then, and as they are often described today. Professor Sprague, who had a concentration on studying American Indian tribes as well as teaching design, often said, "They don't gather in dense concentrations, spewing out pollution as they make Kleenex..." but they hunted and farmed land until the areas could longer sustain them, then they moved on. They were so few in number, in such a vast land, that they did not overwhelm the environment.

In central Mexico, I visited a pyramid built by the Toltecs, a Native North American tribe that preceded the Aztecs. They were quite civilized, with farms, a language and food preservation and storage. The pyramids they built were lookouts, to defend themselves from the barbarians from the north, who would descend on their territory in the winter months. The northern tribes, unless repelled, would rape and kill their women, steal their crops, etc. They weren't such nice people. One could argue they weren't as bad as the evil, white Europeans, but that is certainly subjective. The Toltecs might disagree.

In other words, though Columbus had his shortcomings, so did those "civilized" peoples who were here

before his discovery of the landmass. HIs accomplishments were great. And the statue is an impressive work of art, deserving of respect. I would appreciate it if Pittsburgh did not become a Me Too of wokeness, and remove this statue under pressure from those who don't understand its history.

Sincerely,

Anthony G. Poli, AIA
4700 Ellsworth Ave., Apt. 17
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Keep Columbus Statue

Valerie Riggi <valerieriggi@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 8:05 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

I know you are meeting this Wednesday to discuss the fate of the city's Christopher Columbus statue. This statue has been a prominent feature of Schenley Park since 1958, over 62 years. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harris to push back against fierce prejudice and widespread violence against Italian Americans at that time. My parents came to American in the early 1900's, my wife came to America in 1949, we are proud Americans and proud Italian Americans. Members of my family have fought in every war beginning in WWI, WWII, Korean War (my brother, sister and both brothers-in-law), Viet Nam (me) and Operation Desert Storm. The single largest ethnic group of soldiers who fought for America during WWII were Italian Americans and this while Italian Americans were put in internment camps in Missoula Montana (few people are aware of this; it seems only the Japanese internment is widely known).

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination against ALL PEOPLE, we reuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. To allow protesters to turn on a symbol of pride for the contribution and sacrifices made by generations of Italian Americans and the 25 million in America today establishes a precedent that at any time protesters can determine which statues they determine want removed. Both the Democratic nominee for President, Joe Biden and the presumptive Republican nominee for President, Donald Trump have endorsed the Christopher Columbus holiday and spoken out against the removal of statues. Support from both parties.

I sincerely ask for your vote to keep the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park and to protect it from vandals. Thank you.

Columbus Statute

bubba1zfg@aol.com <bubba1zfg@aol.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 4:51 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save this statue, and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

My parents were Italian immigrants who came to this country in 1955 and became citizens in the 1960's. They faced bigotry and hatred, but they never lost focus of achieving the American dream which they accomplished. They instilled in their children a sense of pride in their heritage but also a great love and appreciation for the country they came to call home - America.

We must stop judging the past by today's standards that change daily. The decision of whether the statute stands or is removed should be left by those who are directly impacted by the history that drove the need for acknowledgement.

Do the right thing and leave the statute where it belongs - in the back yard of a large, proud Italian American community that appreciates the past that gave us a legacy of hope, faith, family, love and undying respect for this great country.

Sincerely,
Kathryn (Santamaria) Geiselhart and Family

Save Columbus

Andrew Bone <dcbone685@gmail.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:27 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Save Columbus

Pat I <patilluzzi@gmail.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:33 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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> ***Thank you,***
>
> ***Pasquale Illuzzi***

Mailtrack Sender notified by Mailtrack

Columbus Statue / Schenley Park

Frank Cipolla <fdcipolla@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 1:00 PM

Honorable Member of the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

Please let me add my voice to the growing chorus objecting to plans to remove the Columbus Statue in Schenley Park.

I find it amazing that there are those among you ***eagerly mining history for fresh outrage*** and sadly caving in to a small minority of people who want to rewrite the past.

This nation's 21-million Italian Americans honor Columbus for his courageous journey that united the continents. The designation of ***Columbus Day, which was first celebrated in 1892*** and later as a national holiday during the administration of FDR. It was made a national holiday to pay tribute to the contributions of Italian Americans in building this country.

Columbus was also a man of his times. Much of what you have read about him was written by those following his death who were understandably jealous of his accomplishments. ***How in the world can you judge a 15th Century man by 21st Century standards?***

In addition, the world he landed in was not a Garden of Eden. The ***tribes of North American practiced slavery, unspeakable brutaity, and even cannibalism*** but somehow they are not judged - and Columbus is?

Use your heads. No historical figure is perfect - but the good work he or she has done outweighs whatever faults they may have had.

Stop this revisionist history now!

Thank you.

Frank Cipolla

Pittsburgh Art Commission Columbus Statue Recommendation

jkglasheen@gmail.com <jkglasheen@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 2:29 PM

To: Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>; Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>**
Cc: jkglasheen@gmail.com <jkglasheen@gmail.com>

As I frequent traveler to the great city of Pittsburgh and a patron of the arts across the US, I would like to reach out and ask your support to maintain the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenely Park in Oakland near Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

I am aware of the recent controversy to remove this beautiful statue from the grounds and do not support it. This statue depicts a world explorer and important part of our history who played a role in the development of our civilization. I believe no one can honestly say they never said an offensive word or had a negative thought against another person, place or thing in this world. The social pressure you are facing as a Board by a special interest movement that wants to change the course of our history is a threat to our democracy and freedom of expression ideal expressed in the Constitution of the United States.

How can we move forward as a civilization if we don't recognize our past? While we don't live in a perfect world, eliminating art or historical narrative because a few object to the subject matter is a slippery slope. If you remove this statue what will be next, Paul Revere's statue , the Iwo Jima statue, the Washington Monument, the Star of David or the Cross of Calvary?

You have the opportunity to help restore the moral compass of our great country that appears to be lost at the moment. Stand and be counted for freedom of expression and freedom of art. Please maintain the statue of Columbus in your park.

Respectfully Yours
Jim Glasheen
15247 Count Fleet Court
Carmel, Indiana

Columbus statue takedown

Angelo Caputo <ajcaputo@verizon.net>

Tue 8/25/2020 11:16 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Diane Vanr <dvanrlisia@gmail.com>

To the Commission Members.
Please **do not vote** to take down the Columbus statue at you meeting tomorrow. I may be from Long Island but I have friends in the Pittsburgh area and this statue and Holiday means a lot to all of us. Many other Italian American Groups are writing to you so let me be another one to express our strong feelings about what Columbus means to us.

Our group LISIA (Long Island Italian Association) is 170 members strong . Diane Langella is our President and I am the Anti-Defamation Chairperson. Unfortunately, these actions by other groups in the country have led us to write to each and every one of them. We have been successful many times and hope that you will consider our request very seriously.

Sincerely yours

Angelo J Caputo

Sent from my iPad

COLUMBUS STATUE

Caroline Garguilo <caroline.garguilo@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 11:33 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.
For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.
Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Warm Regards,
Caroline Garguilo
2018-2019 NJ Realtors® Circle of Excellence Sales Award®
Cell (732) 616-6583
Office: (732) 945-5253 Ext. 580
Website: cgarguilo.kw.com
Check Out My Zillow Reviews

Preserving Italian Culture and History

Nikkifq <nikkifq@aol.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 8:38 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

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Italian immigrants came to Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania to work in the coal mines, steel mills, railroads and factories. Their hard work helped to develop Pittsburgh and the areas around it and bring a rich and storied culture to the area. Italian Americans and the generations before them do not deserve this disrespect. If more people knew the story of the statues, perhaps they would understand our vehement feelings for what is being done to erase our history and culture

We urge you to save this statue, and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Very truly yours,

Filomena Pistoia

Christopher Columbus Statute

Karen SantoPietro <karensantopietro@gmail.com>

Fri 8/21/2020 2:53 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Please don't allow anymore destruction of our history and heritage. I feel as an Italian American this was a very important part of history still taught in our schools today. How are our Italian children going to relate to their history same as I wouldn't want any other important historic statue torn down. We have to know America's history (ALL OF IT) good and bad. And not pick and choose the which ones offend whatever group decides they are offended. I'm offended that this is even a consideration and wasting govt time and expense.
Sent from my iPhone

(No subject)

Patricia Bellizia <pjbellizia@gmail.com>

Sun 8/23/2020 8:42 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

This behavior based on ignorance is completely intolerable and despicable.

Should we ignore our history? History is the foundation of this nation. Should we wipe the slate so totally clean that we obliterate the decades of slavery and discrimination ? Why not? Let's just start from today....our children will learn nothing and appreciate nothing—after all, it's all inconsequential—forget it and go forward. No history, no foundation, no building blocks! Fine, fall off the cliff of ignorance!

Our nation needs unification. Our nation needs to appreciate everyone who's helping to build our country. Our nation needs to understand as my father preached at the dinner table MANY times: "There are no free lunches "!

Thank you

Patricia Bellizia

The Pittsburgh Art Commission meeting next Wednesday, August 26

Marian Pardo <mpardo124@gmail.com>

Sat 8/22/2020 2:38 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Manny Alfano <mannyalfano@comcast.net>

Dear Commissioners:
You will be meeting to consider whether to remove a Columbus statue from Schenley park.
Every community has the right to decide appropriate statues for iis public spaces. Every community has the obligation to not erase history but to teach it fully. In the homage to history every community is obligated to understand the context and meaning of public historical markers. The Columbus statue marks the inclusion of Italians in American society not the exclusion of other groups; the Columbus statue marks the historic achievement of successfully navigating between two major continents; it does not celebrate subsequent events which could not be foreseen.
Do not dishonor your Italian American community by voting to remove the statue.
Keep Columbus in Schenley Park.

Respectfully,
Marian Pardo
President
Columbus Citizens Foundation
New York, NY

--
Marian U Pardo

Statue

torchia07 <torchia07@comcast.net>

Sat 8/22/2020 10:38 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

The Columbus statue is really a Pittsburgh gift from the past. Certainly it is a reminder of the IItalian influence and the contributions made to our beautiful city; but more importantly, it is a representation of our nation's existence. For years, our citizens, regardless of race, ethnic background and religion celebrated our history of the individual who discovered America.
Please keep our history alive!
Thank-you
Tom Torchia

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Save our Columbus Statue and reject violent destructive behavior

Ann Murphy <anncsm@yahoo.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 1:13 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

It is absolutely absurd that our culture is being erased by a group of misinformed, over emotional and violent youth. There was a time when destructive behavior meant reform school not controlling our government officials and civic leaders.

Thank you
Ann Murphy

SAVE THE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS STATUE IN PITTSBURGH AND THROUGHOUT THE USA.

Kevin Hambelton <kevin.hambelton@yahoo.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 2:04 PM

To: The Pittsburgh Art Commission

Please stop the assault in Pittsburgh and around our country against Christoper Columbus's history and statues. During our challenging days, today, is it not better to strengthen relationships rather than tear them down? As a person who was born and raised in the Pittsburgh area I see no valid reason for this type of action. Italians are good people who live and work in the area as police officers, firemen, lawyers, bakers, funeral directors, bus drivers, and many walks of life including your membership. Our hero is Christopher Columbus. The Italians of today had nothing to do with events which happened hundreds of years ago. It is time to move on.

Several years ago, I heard from a friend about him serving on a committee to help fund the survivors of the USS Indianapolis which was blown out of the water in the Pacific by the Japanese killing hundreds of American navy men. Their reunion was every two years in Indianapolis and included two reserved tables. The two tables were for the family of he Japanese commander who sank our ship. They attended, were welcomed, were supportive. compassionate, forgiven. Today many Japanese people live in peace in the USA because of forgiveness, not tearing down history.

As you know, earlier in history, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor killed and wounded over 3,500 of our men and women. The war was put to an end with the Atomic Bomb on Japan which killed and wounded over 115,000 Japanese men and women In addition, thousands were killed on both sides until the war ended. When it was over, there was peace, which continues today because of forgiveness.

It is time to put this behind us with forgiveness.

I am sorry but I do not see one ounce of good that will come from removing the statues of Christopher Columbus from Pittsburgh or any other city. Statues are a reflection of history and do more good when standing and teaching than torn down. PLEASE CONSIDER MY REQUEST.

G. Kevin Hambelton
Kevin.Hambelton@yahoo.com

Columbus Statue

Eric Worthing <eworthing@verizon.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 2:17 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:
The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.
For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country with little resistance from police or city leadership.
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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save this statue, and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thanks you.Member of the ISDA

Eric
Worthing

Save Columbus

Pietropaolo, Vince <pietropaolo@ppg.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 6:23 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Vince Pietropaolo
Global Account Manager
Industrial Coatings
PPG

704-519-9082 Mobile
pietropaolo@ppg.com
www.ppg.com

Save Columbus

Carlino Giampolo <carlinog@hotmail.com>

Thu 8/20/2020 5:00 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Carlino Giampolo

Saving Columbus

mlucarelli128@gmail.com <mlucarelli128@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 3:50 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Michelle Lucarelli

SAVE the Columbus Statue! Do NOT ERASE American History!

Cristina Fontanelli <info@cristinafontanelli.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 3:57 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

Cc: Angelo.Vivolo@ColumbusHeritageCoalition.com <Angelo.Vivolo@ColumbusHeritageCoalition.com>

PLEASE!!! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! HISTORY PROVES IT IS NOT SMART TO ERASE THE HISTORY OF A NATION! PLEASE RESPECT OUR ANCESTORS AND WHAT THEY FOUGHT AND DIED FOR!

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

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We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Cristina Fontanelli
212-217-6181
www.cristinafontanelli.com

Saving Columbus Statue

anthonydim@verizon.net <anthonydim@verizon.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 6:00 PM

To: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Honorable Peduto,

Concerning the removal of the Columbus statue from Schenley Park will be a error of history. There is plenty to learn of the truth of Columbus and his attributes to society. No one has all the answers of what actually took place at his time as no one has all the answers for all other notable hero's of the past no matter who they were. The people of today were not living at the time of Columbus, so no one can be a true witness. There is always more to the story than is printed in books. I strongly feel that Columbus should remain as he is. Not remove his statue nor anyone else's statues. As a example, that even goes for the hero generals of the South in the Civil War. That is the statue of Robert E. Lee. He is their hero and should remain there as he and other figures are reminders of the real history of America that children and adults should learn from.

Sincerely,
Mr. Anthony Di Marino

---------- Original Message ----------
From: "Manny ALFANO mannyalfano@comcast.net [ladolcevita_italianinelmondo]" <ladolcevita_italianinelmondo@yahoogroups.com>

Date: August 22, 2020 at 9:27 AM
Subject: [ladolcevita_italianinelmondo] SPECIAL IAOVC NEWS ALERT! August 22, 2020

Italian American One Voice Coalition

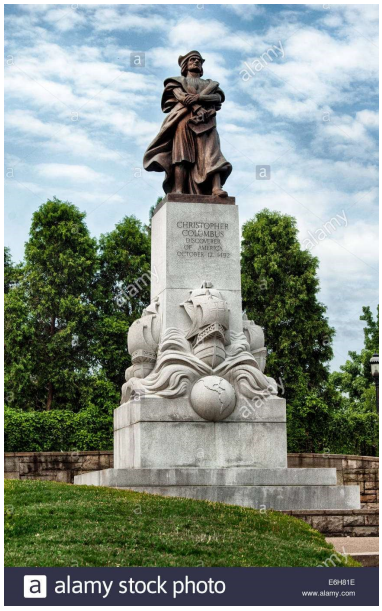
P.O. Box 2333 Bloomfield, NJ 07003 ... www.iaovc.org
Phone 1 (844) 862-8623 (844 UNA-VOCE)
President Dr. Manny Alfano mannyalfano@comcast..net

"If you say nothing & If you do nothing … You will surely become NOTHING"!

SPECIAL IAOVC NEWS ALERT!

ATTENTION ALL IAOVC DEFENDERS

The Italian American community in Pittsburgh needs our help



Contact the Pittsburgh Art Commission and educate them on Columbus!

Art Commission

Contact pacd@pittsburghpa.gov

Website: https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/art-commission

Send a copy to: Mayor Bill Peduto

bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov

City Council Website https://pittsburghpa.gov/council/council-contacts

The Pittsburgh Art Commission will hold a zoom meeting next Wednesday, August 26th at 2:00 pm to decide whether it will remove a Columbus statue from Schenley park.

The Italian American community in Pittsburgh is fighting this and needs our help to stop the institutional discrimination.

Be firm but polite with the goal of educating them on the reasons the monument is an Italian American cultural symbol. Removing the monument is discriminatory because the monument is:

- Symbol of inclusion into American society

- Symbol of atonement for the past brutal treatment Italians received

- Symbol of overcoming white supremacy. Hate groups tried to remove Columbus monuments and told us we were not welcome in America when our families arrived

- Everyone in America has the right to celebrate their culture but no individual or group has the right to try and eliminate another.

Attention Italian Americans! Are you sick and tired of watching elected officials remove Columbus monuments? Telling you that your culture doesn't matter and discriminating against you? Enough is Enough! Help us hold them accountable for their actions! Become a member of the Italian American One Voice Coalition and start fighting back! Click on this link to get started! The membership fee is just … $60 for individuals AND $100 for organizations which will cover the rest of 2020 and all of 2021.

http://www.iaovc.org/membership/

FOLLOW US ON: https://www.facebook.com/IAOVC/

IAOVC WAR CHEST

If you would like to help us build our WARCHEST in order to defend our heritage please contact GoFundMe

https://www.gofundme.com/f/italian-american-civil-rights?utm_medium=email&utm_source=product&utm_campaign=p_email%2B4803-donation-alert-v5

You may choose to mail your donation to

Manny Alfano 97 Irving Terr., Bloomfield, NJ 07003

…or http://www.iaovc.org/donate/ Pay Pal

PLEASE Send your home address Phone # & E-Mail address

ONE VOICE Coalition Organizations

Allegria, Amici Club of Wanaque, Anti-Bias Committee of UNICO National, Belleville UNICO, Bloomfield UNICO, Brick UNICO, Bridgeport UNICO, Center for Italian and Italian American Culture, Clark UNICO, Chicago W Suburban Chapter of UNICO, Coccia Foundation, East Hanover Italian American Club, Federation of Italian American Cultural Club Mirage, Italian American Societies on NJ, Garfield UNICO, Greater Ramsey UNICO, Greenbriar Oceanaire Italian American Club, FSGN, Italian American Cultural Society of NJ, Italian American Heritage Club of Hunterdon County, Italian American Police Society of NJ, Keystone Chapter UNICO, La Festa Italiana of Lackawanna County, PA, Lt. Joseph Petrosino Lodge OSIA, Lt. Det. Joseph Petrosino Association in America, Misericordia Society National Italian American Legal Defense Fund, NJ IIAHC (NJ Italian American Heritage Commission), NJ OSIA Grand Lodge, Nutley-Belleville Columbus Parade Committee, Nutley UNICO, Ocean County Columbus Parade Committee, Plainfield Chapter of UNICO, Point Pleasant UNICO, Scranton UNICO, Stamford UNICO, Transportation Columbia Assoc of NY, UNICO N.J. DISTRICT VII, UNICO National, Waterbury UNICO, Westchester Coalition of Italian American Organizations, Westfield UNICO, Woodcliff Lake UNICO

Special Alliances

Association of Italian American Educators President Josephine Maietta AIAE

Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition is an IRS Registered 501(c) 3 Tax Exempt Corporation

Posted by: Manny ALFANO <mannyalfano@comcast.net>

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Save Columbus

Michele Liberatore <micheleliberatore6@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 7:28 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

This is racial prejudice and a re-writing of history.

Sincerely,
Michele Liberatore

Michele Liberatore
Atina Homes, LLC
412-651-2426 cell
412-308-6259 home
micheleliberatore6@gmail.com

Christopher Columbus statue

Dr. Dan <drstrinkoski@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 7:58 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>

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I urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve the history and heritage that Italian-Americans fought and died for.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Strinkoski, D.D.S.

--

Daniel J. Strinkoski, D.D.S.
942 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412-322-9620

Preserve Schenley Park Columbus Statue

afsanta57@aol.com <afsanta57@aol.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 9:21 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To Members of the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

I know your are meeting this Wednesday to discuss the fate of the city's Christopher Columbus statue. This statue has been a prominent feature of Schenley Park since 1958, over 62 years. Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harris to push back against fierce prejudice and widespread violence against Italian Americans at that time. My parents came to American in the early 1900's, my wife came to America in 1949, we are proud Americans and proud Italian Americans. Members of my family have fought in every war beginning in WWI, WWII, Korean War (my brother, sister and both brothers-in-law), Viet Nam (me) and Operation Desert Storm. The single largest ethnic group of soldiers who fought for America during WWII were Italian Americans and this while Italian Americans were put in internment camps in Missoula Montana (few people are aware of this, it seems only the Japanese internment is widely known).

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination against ALL PEOPLE, we reuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. To allow protesters to turn on a symbol of pride for the contribution and sacrifices made by generations of Italian Americans and the 25 million in America today establishes a precedent that at any time protesters can determine which statues they determine want removed. Both the Democratic nominee for President, Joe Biden and the presumptive Republican nominee for President, Donald Trump have endorsed the Christopher Columbus holiday and spoken out against the removal of statues. Support from both parties.

I sincerely ask for your vote to keep the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park and to protect it from vandals. Thank you.

Anthony F. Santarelli, Viet-Nam Veteran who proudly served his country

Don't remove the statue of Christopher Columbus!!!

Robert Turri <bob.linda.turri@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 9:38 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end.

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the country...,

WITH LITTLE RESISTANCE FROM POLICE OR CITY LEADERSHIP!

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

THE STATUES AND PARADES SYMBOLIZE UNITY AND A FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, AND

WE REFUSE TO HAVE THIS HISTORY HIJACKED BY LAWLESS PROTESTERS!

WE URGE YOU to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we FOUGHT AND DIED FOR!

ROBERT TURRI
ENON, OHIO

SAVE the Columbus Statue!

Shelly Fetchen DiCesaro <sfdicesaro@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 6:55 AM

To: Shelly Fetchen DiCesaro <sfdicesaro@gmail.com>

To the Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. PERIOD!

For months, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments throughout the
country with little resistance from police or city leadership. Vandalism does nothing to advance a cause, and in this case vandals and protestors are not understanding the full story and critical needs to preserve this part of history.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday. Not to mention....he is the "founder" of our country! There is nothing wrong with celebrating an accomplishment that ultimately enabled MY Italian and European ancestors to pursue THEIR American dream and thrive!!! Lets learn from our past and celebrate the good!

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters.
We urge you to save the Schenley Park Columbus statue and preserve our history and heritage that we fought and died for.

Sincerely,
Dr. Shelly DiCesaro

Save Columbus

ma.djo@verizon.net <ma.djo@verizon.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 12:40 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Stadelman, Sally <sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Kail-Smith, Theresa <theresa.kail-smith@pittsburghpa.gov>; Charland, Bob <bob.charland@pittsburghpa.gov>; Fisher, Kaitlyn <kaitlyn.fisher@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 5 <district5@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Williams, Cassandra <cassandra.williams@pittsburghpa.gov>; **District 7 <district7@pittsburghpa.gov>;** Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Burgess, Reverend <reverend.burgess@pittsburghpa.gov>

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Thank You,
Deborah Ferranti

save columbus

ma.djo@verizon.net <ma.djo@verizon.net>

Mon 8/24/2020 12:38 AM

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Thank You,
Michael Ferranti