



Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans

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Mayor Lori Lightfoot
City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mayor Lightfoot,

Chicago's Italian American Community respectfully requests that the displaced statues of Christopher Columbus be returned to their rightful locations in time for our beloved holiday this Monday, October 12th.

While we disagree regarding the merits of their initial removal, we ceded to your authority to do so **temporarily** in the interests of public safety. And while their confiscation was a decisive blow to the heart and soul of our community, our organization's leadership has maintained a commitment and willingness to work together with your office to ensure that they be re-erected at the proper time.

We also look forward to working together to ensure the safety of these monuments, and that our law enforcement officers and our citizens are protected. Certainly, there will be some critics of a decision to re-erect these monuments, however, we have never doubted you on your word and promise to the Italian American Community that their removal was temporary and they would, in fact, be returned when safe to do so.

At this time, we feel that the scope and meaning of the term 'temporary' has been exhausted. The initial displacement of the monuments did not produce a safer Chicago, and lawless action continued to ensue. The net effect was a deep wound, represented by the empty statue bases where our hero once stood, which struck to the core of so many immigrants, and their descendants, that came to this country and contributed to it in a meaningful way, which Columbus's trailblazing acts made possible.

True leadership demands the **keeping** of one's **promises** to the people. We feel that you are a public servant equipped with the honor and integrity to do exactly that. We could envision no greater gift of joy than having the symbol of our community's contributions to the American Dream returned to us over the weekend.

We look forward to hearing back from you regarding this very important and pressing matter.

Sincerely,

Sergio Giangrande
President
Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans

Pasquale D. Gianni
Executive Committee
Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans