



Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans

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Dear Commissioner,

As a proud member of Cook County's Italian American community, I am writing to you today to impart upon you the importance of maintaining the Columbus Day federal holiday in Cook County.

For decades, the federal Columbus Day holiday has been the one day of the year when Italians and Italian Americans have joined together to celebrate the traditions passed on from generation to generation. It is a holiday that is near and dear to the hearts of countless individuals, organizations and companies that come together to celebrate the wonders of a culture that has contributed so much to the development of this great country, and this great county.

This is more than just being about Christopher Columbus or his statues. As each day passes, more and more widespread actions are being taken to remove Columbus Day as a federal holiday as well as local recognition, something most Italian Americans consider a slap in the face to their parents and grandparents who came before them to create a better life for their families.

And now, there are discussions within the Cook County Board of Commissioners to also cancel Columbus Day as a holiday recognized by the County itself. This would be a devastating blow to our culture.

We are proud that Cook County is one of the top-ten counties in America with the highest number of Italian Americans within its boundaries. We are heartfully requesting you to be as sensitive to the traditions of Italian Americans as you would for any other ethnic group in Cook County.

Wishing you and your family safety and good health during these challenging times. Thank you for your service to the residents of Cook County.

Sincerely,

Sergio Giangrande
President

Ron Onesti
Vice President

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