

The contributions of Italian Americans are under attack in Columbus, Ohio

Through a series of recent events the history, culture and contributions of Italian Americans have come under attack in our community and in the city of Columbus, Ohio – the largest city in the United States named “Columbus.” On June 18, 2020, Mayor Ginther ordered the removal of the Christopher Columbus Statue from the steps of City Hall where it stood since 1955 when it was received as a gift from Columbus’ first sister city – Genoa, Italy. Mayor Ginther and the Franklin County Commissioners have also determined that the City and County will no longer observe the national federal holiday of Columbus Day. Recently, the Italian Village Society approached the City and began exploring the possibility of renaming the Christopher Columbus Park – a process that will require City approval.

Collectively these actions offend many citizens of Central Ohio. They marginalize the contributions of Italian Americans and immigrants in general to the founding, growth and prosperity of Columbus and Central Ohio. They disrespect the sacrifices that Italian immigrants and Italian Americans have made while disregarding the history and symbolism that are associated with the statue, the holiday and the name Christopher Columbus.

The Christopher Columbus Park, the statue of Christopher Columbus, and the observance of Columbus Day represent far more than one man, they represent the Italian American community at large as well as the immigrant experience in general.

Please add your voice to these issues and tell Mayor Ginther and the Franklin County Commissioners what you think about these issues by signing this petition in favor of the following:

- 1 – The Christopher Columbus Statue should be returned to outdoor public display in the central business district of Columbus as soon as possible but no later than October 1, 2021. The display should include an historically balanced and appropriate narrative focusing on the symbolism it has stood for and of the contributions of Italian Americans to the prosperity of Columbus and Central Ohio.
- 2- The City and County should continue to observe the national federal holiday of Columbus Day which was first officially observed in the late 19th century to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices Italian Immigrants and Italian Americans were making to the United States.
- 3 – The City should NOT rename the Christopher Columbus Park in Italian Village.

The sponsors of this Petition - Piave Club, Columbus Italian Club, Abruzzi Club and American Italian Golf Association are authorized to represent us on these issues before the City of Columbus and Board of Franklin County Commissioners.

Name Printed	Signature	Address work/home	Initial Your Approvals		
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Completed Petitions should be returned by July 30, 2021 either by email to jsisto@schuengerlaw.com, or dropped off or mailed to the Columbus Italian Club at 1739 w. 3rd Ave., Columbus, OH 43212