

November 17, 2020

To: Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle and the Board of Commissioners via email

re: Item 20-5462, the 2020 3rd Quarter Report from the Office of the Independent Inspector General ("OIIG")

Dear President Preckwinkle and Commissioners:

The League of Women Voters of Cook County urges you all to take appropriate steps to ensure that the Board of Review ("BoR") both addresses and adopts each of the recommendations of the OIIG, as detailed in both the 2nd Quarter and 3rd Quarter Reports regarding IIG18-0344. The OIIG identifies in both of these reports numerous problems with the hiring practices within the BoR, as well as with solicitation of employees to become involved with political activities.

It is very disappointing that in this day and age, particularly after all the time and money spent, and continuing to be spent, by the County with regard to the *Shakman* decrees, that the practices identified by the OIIG have been taking place. They must not continue.

Early in September, the League wrote to the BoR Commissioners urging that they adopt the OIIG's recommendations. We understand that the BoR has communicated with the OIIG stating that some steps are being taken. However, the OIIG has reported that the BoR has failed to address or agree to adopt each of the recommendations. Accordingly, the OIIG states in the 3rd Quarter Report that the matter has been referred to both the Chair of the Litigation Subcommittee and the President for further action, as provided in Section 2-285(e) of the Cook County Code.

Thank you for providing the League and the public in general with the opportunity to raise issues from the OIIG reports at Board meetings.

Yours truly,

Cynthia Schilsky, President

cc: Independent Inspector General Patrick Blanchard

Board of Review Commissioners Michael Cabonargi, Dan Patlak, and Larry Rogers, Jr.

The League of Women Voters of Cook County is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizen in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The Cook County League is composed of the over 1700 members of 13 local Leagues within Cook County.

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Silvestri, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Thank you for your time,
Deborah E. Kaczorowski

Dear Cook County Board:

I hope you are well, all things considered. I am from the city of Chicago, and I am a second-generation bilingual Sicilian American. Assuming the meeting is still on for tomorrow, I would like to implore you to please vote in favor of giving the second Monday in October to the Native Americans.

We do not need Columbus Day, even though some Italians in Chicago falsely believe that we do. **Us Italians need to invent a better holiday to celebrate our heritage that doesn't involve Christopher Columbus.** He was a mediocre sailor and leader, on top of having killed millions of Indigenous people in the Caribbean, raping and enslaving many more, and never even setting foot on the mainland. Again, we need a better holiday to celebrate our heritage.

Also, there are 65,000 Native Americans living in Chicago who come from many of the 574 federally recognized tribes all over the United States. They are university professors, schoolteachers, entrepreneurs, students, engineers, doctors, contractors, manufacturers, and everything else you can think of. Chicago was originally the territory of the Anishinaabe.

Their cultures have endless wisdom to teach, and they also know how to have a good time. There are also many Native vets who have fought for America. **All of Chicago would benefit** from having a designated day to celebrate with them. They are absolutely right to demand Indigenous People's Day and we have no right to try to deny it to them.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Kind regards,

Marie L. Winnick
Spanish and Italian > English
Translations and Transcriptions
Chicago, IL, USA

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Bill Lowry, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day!

Historical record is clear that Columbus did not discover America, and that he inflicted unspeakable atrocities to the Indigenous people who already lived here. By upholding his holiday, we uphold the violence and pillaging that he represents, and do not properly honor the lives lost to his actions and colonization in the states, which has horrific effects on Native Americans to this day.

I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Thank you for your consideration.

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Briana Payton

Pronouns: she / her / hers

Policy Fellow, Chicago Community Bond Fund

Good afternoon,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Silvestri, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Columbus should not be celebrated in this way, as he was not the founder of this land, nor did he treat the people well when he did arrive. It is far more important to recognize the peoples who have been here and whose history many have tried to systematically erase over hundreds of years.

I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves.

With gratitude,

Jen Ciok

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing with the Indigenous Peoples' Day Coalition, and know that you've had at least 12 e-mails already from various constituents (and I expect you'll get many more between now and 9am tomorrow)!

We'd like 4 specific ones read aloud tomorrow, and they may not have all come in yet, and we MAY need to switch one of the speakers, if it isn't submitted in time.

So, I'll be writing again first thing in the morning, and cc'ing Clinee who we have been working with at Commissioner Brandon Johnson's office about the 4...and then we're assuming the rest will just be COUNTED. If we're mistaken, and there is time for additional to be read, I can provide names of WHICH ONES, as we'd like to send a certain message (and MINE could be among them)...and there are additional Italian Americans who we'd like to lift up, if there's room...depending on how many OTHER people submit for public comment.

So...aside from those logistics, I'd like you to also count ME as one of the supporters. Here's MY comment:

COOK County and Cook County Forest Preserves should change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day because... This is a growing National movement, since 1992, in which 13 states, 6 counties, over 135 cities/towns, a dozen Universities and school districts, including the Chicago Public Schools, Evanston, Oak Park, Niles Township, and more in Illinois have already made this change. Over 72 million people around the country live in states, cities and counties that recognize Indigenous People's Day. In Cook County, over 7,000 people have signed the petition, and many dozens of organizations which represent many thousands of constituents. The list of supporting organizations and policy makers has been e-mailed to each Commissioner multiple times, and more organizations are joining everyday!

Cook County should change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day because... When discussing Columbus, it should be noted that this so-called hero was an invader upon Indigenous lands and caused irreparable damage through the extraction, exploitation and unimaginable acts of physical, mental, and sexual abuse inflicted upon the original inhabitants. Christopher Columbus' Native American slave trade morphed into the trans-Atlantic slave trade by the mid-16th century. Despite the atrocities committed by Columbus and the colonizers, Indigenous communities are still here and thriving. In Cook County alone, the Native population is over 65,000 and home to the sixth largest Urban Native population in the country. By continuing to commemorate Columbus as a hero, we undermine the rich history and diversity that created modern-day Cook County.

This resolution is not Anti-Italian! We have respect and love for our Italian American sisters and brothers, and we know they have been discriminated against in terms of housing, employment, education, health care, in decades past. However, this resolution IS Anti-Columbus. The purpose of this movement is to end the celebration of a man who is responsible for the perpetuation of genocide and the genesis of chattel slavery.

In addition, we have a list of MANY DOZENS of supporters including the following to name JUST A FEW:

the American Indian Center
UIC Native American Support Program
the Chicago Teachers Union
Italian American Heritage Society of Chicago
Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois
Black Millennial Renaissance
Pilsen Alliance
CAIR-Chicago (Council on American Islamic Relations)
WE WILL

LSNA - Logan Square Neighborhood Association/Leaders Shaping Neighborhood Action

Arab American Action Network (AAAN)

and

Asian Americans Advancing Justice

PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING FOR COOK COUNTY, and change Columbus Day, a holiday for a rapist murdered who was the beginning of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, to Indigenous Peoples' Day!!

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Dennis, Ph.D. (she/her)

Adjunct Professor of Education at UIC

Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Trainer

Indigenous Peoples' Day Coalition

Hello there,

My name is Samantha Pellegrino, and I'm a constituent of Commissioner Gainer. I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves.

Thank you, and with all my best,

Samantha Pellegrino
Chicago IL 60640

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Arroyo Jr., and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support for the resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves.

Sincerely,

Sean Kase
Chicago, IL

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Arroyo, to whom I wrote about this issue last week. I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day, along with many thousands of other Cook County residents. I hope you will honor the voices of your constituents to change the name of the Columbus Day Holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves.

Thank you.

Lily Elderkin, with the Indigenous Peoples' Day Coalition

Hello Cook County Commissioners,

As a resident of Cook County, I wanted to make sure you all know that I support the changing of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day by sharing with you my email below to my Commissioner, John Daley.

Please support the Resolution to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

Sincerely,

Kathy Buckley
60655

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Kathy Buckley

To: John Daley

Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2020, 01:24:25 PM CST

Subject: Support Resolution for Indigenous Peoples Day

Commissioner Daley,

As a constituent I am reaching out to you today to ask you to support the Resolution to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

Let's not continue to whitewash our violent history by honoring Christopher Columbus on this day. We were not taught any of these realities in school back in the 50's and would go so far to say we were taught "Indians" were bad and "savages" and I want my great grandchildren to grow up in a society that acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of Native Americans, not some genocidal colonial oppressor who didn't even "discover" America.

Illinois was home to many Native American tribes who were decimated or pushed out from their lands; let's honor them today by replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day and teach our next generations a fuller, more accurate history of our nation.

Thank you.

Kathy Buckley
60655

Good afternoon,

I am a constituent of Commissioner Daley and I am reaching out to the entire Cook County Board to make sure you know that I support the resolution to change Columbus Day to indigenous Peoples Day. Below is my message to Commissioner Daley sharing why I think it is important to make this change and right our wrongs.

Please support this resolution. Thank you.

Ken Buckley
Chicago, 60655

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Ken Buckley

To: John Daley

Cc: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2020, 10:13:35 AM CST

Subject: Support Indigenous Peoples Day

Commissioner Daley,

As a constituent and Vietnam Vet, I am proud of this generation's activism to create a more equitable and inclusive society and ask you to support the Resolution to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

Now is the time for our nation to shift from hate and divisiveness and move towards unity and inclusion. One way this can be done is to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. Let's take this opportunity to correct our misguided honoring of Christopher Columbus who subjected Indigenous people to enslavement and extreme violence, and instead, celebrate and acknowledge the history and contributions to those who were here first and have made our country, especially in Illinois which is an Algonquin tribe word that actually means "the people."

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Ken Buckley
Chicago, 60655

Dear Board of Commissioners:

I hope you all support the resolution changing the holiday known as "Columbus Day" to Indigenous People's Day that is being introduced at this month's board meeting. This is a simple step to correct a heinous symbol of oppression and hate in our county. Let's follow the lead of cities and counties making this progress and the will of the majority of the citizens in this county looking for a more inclusive and considerate society.

As a constituent of the 10th district, I hope Commissioner Gainer will represent her district and its people well by eagerly supporting this action.

Best,

Ryan O'Donnell

On Wed, Nov 11, 2020, 8:29 AM Ryan O'Donnell
Dear Commissioner Gainer,

I hope your day is starting well.

As a constituent of the 10th district, your district, I implore you to change the holiday known as "Columbus Day," in memorial to an evil, racist murderer, to Indigenous People's Day.

At November's meeting, a resolution will be introduced to accomplish this. Please reply to this email and confirm that you will support the full elimination of "Columbus Day" and the institution of Indigenous People's Day.

Best,

Ryan O'Donnell

Dear Commissioner Gainer and Cook County Board Members.

I support the call to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day. There are thousands of Cook County residents who are also in favor of this change as shown by petitions that are being widely shared. Chicago Public Schools is already making great steps and teaching our youth about the Indigenous culture that thrived on the continent before Europeans arrived and also teaching them the truth about Columbus' real motives that led to genocide and the slave trade. As our children grow up celebrating indigenous culture they need to see the same values reflected in their environment and Cook County can play a part in that by also replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day. I ask you to meet with those leading the change and talk further with them to learn how you can play a part in making this momentous change.

Regards,

Steve Dennis
IL 60618

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Steve Dennis

Good afternoon,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Daley and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Please see my reason for support below in my email addressed directly to Commissioner Daley last week.

I hope Cook County residents can also count on your support for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day in Cook County.

Maureen Keane

----- Forwarded message -----

Commissioner Daley,

I am a constituent of yours and I am reaching out to you today to urge you to support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day!

We are at a moment in time when much healing needs to take place. We should ask ourselves, are we a city/state that honors and celebrates genocide and colonial oppression of our nation's past or is now the time to acknowledge our violent history, confront racism, and recognize and appreciate Indigenous people and their resilience, wisdom and contributions they made to this state?

Our city's name comes from the Potawatomi tribe's name "*Chicaugou*." With Chicago being the third largest urban Native American population in the country with a representation of over one hundred tribal nations, I hope the residents in Cook County can count on your support for the Resolution that will be introduced at the November Board Meeting to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day!

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration.

Maureen Keane
Chicago, 60655

Dear Board members:

I'm writing as a Cook County voter and resident to let you know that I firmly support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day!

I hope that I and the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution that will be introduced at the November Board Meeting to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day!

Sincerely,
Cassie Creswell

Dear Bridget -

Hello! I've met you at several 39th Ward Dems gatherings and at Peterson Park Association meetings at Solomon Elementary. I really admire so many things that you do and the fact that you represent us well while juggling kids. It's hard.

You may have actually met my son, he's an Indigenous Mayan boy. He was born in rural Guatemala (getting hit by the second hurricane in two weeks today). He's not at all 'hispanic' -- he is truly 100% Mayan; an Indigenous person here in the 'new world' waaaay before Columbus accidentally stumbled here.

It is very ***very important to us to honor Indigenous Peoples*** and let the world know that Columbus 'discovered' nothing and in fact was a **murderer** and **rapist**. At the very least we shouldn't honor him. It is hurtful that our society does this, especially a diverse city like Chicago.

Please consider my request to get us out of the time of fake, Western-history based history. **Update the name to Indigenous Peoples Day.**

Thank you very much,
Catherine King, Esq
60639

Hello.

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Bridget Degnen, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Best,

Lisa

Good morning. My name is Rev. Jonathan Brooks, Pastor of Caanan Community Church in the Englewood neighborhood, residing in Commissioner Dennis Deer's District. Thank you for inviting public comments today. I submit these comments in solidarity with these amazing Native people and their collaborators, and the over 6,000 Cook County residents who have signed the petition thus far, *and* the more than 60 supporting organizations, representing many dozens of thousands who have signed on in support of changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County!

As a man of African-American decent and as a man who loves all people because of my love for God, I mean no disrespect to anyone of Italian heritage, and we recognize, and I quote here from two Italian-American scholars Dr. Ruberto & Dr. Sciorra who wrote: "During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Italian immigrants saw the American idolization of Columbus as a way to deflect the onslaught of xenophobic and racial prejudice and violence that they encountered, and for which they were relatively unprepared, as new arrivals in the United States. They bought into and contributed to a specific Italian reading of Columbus in relationship to their brutal experiences of bigotry. However, some of these self-appointed ethnic leaders claim to speak not just for their membership, but also on behalf of a larger and unspecific Italian American community. Yet, numerous Italian American poets, activists, and scholars have long spoken out against Columbus and his legacy."

So what we see here is: in response to the very thing that we're trying to overcome now in terms of racism and racial inequity, an incorrect reading of Columbus was created. So I say to you, there are plenty of groups, the Italian American Heritage Association, the [NoColumbusDay](#) group, Italian Americans for a Multicultural United States, the Italian American Political Solidarity Club, and the Italian-Americans Against Christopher Columbus which have thousands of people in them who agree with the decision we advocate for Cook County to make in changing Columbus day to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

PLEASE keep your eye on Equity, not for some, but for ALL Cook County Residents.

I would like to voice my firm support to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. It is time to stop celebrating a man who murdered, enslaved and tortured Indigenous people. A man who never set foot on American soil. We must stop celebrating a lie and teach the true history of our Native Americans. If we can take down Confederate statues and erase Confederate names from buildings, it is imperative that we honor the only true Americans, our original inhabitants.

Thank you,
Marjorie Fritz-Birch
48th Ward
Chicago

Cook County Board,

As a constituent of District 10 and a Board Member of the American Indian Center of Chicago I'm asking the Cook County Board to adopt Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday of October.

This will honor and acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land as well as the violent history of genocide and removal from their lands. Adopting this would create and foster diversity, equity and inclusion as policies for the County.

Les Begay (Dine')

American Indian Center of Chicago
Board of Directors
3401 W. Ainslie Ave
Chicago, IL 60625

November 18, 2020

Dear Cook County Commissioners:

The Italian American Heritage Society of Chicago enthusiastically supports abandoning the cruel and grotesque Columbus Day in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day. We applaud the American Indian Center and the visionary Cook County commissioners who are working to effect this change.

Imagine having to pass statues and observe holidays for a man who enslaved, mutilated, and murdered your ancestors. Imagine a Stalin Day or a Mao Zedong Day or a Hitler Day. These are unthinkable, yet there is no difference between them and the torment we have put indigenous people through for decades with the celebration of Christopher Columbus.

As a group with hundreds of Italian American members countywide, I can assure you that we as a community are by no means unanimous in support of Columbus. The opposite is true. Many if not most of us are embarrassed by this tradition.

The Italian American Heritage Society not only celebrates our culture with workshops, Italian language conversation, and other events, we also seek to bring the image of Italian Americans into the 21st century, and we are proud to be part of a coalition that has worked hard to remove the Columbus statues from Chicago and to make the Columbus Day switch at Chicago Public Schools. This group is now before you seeking to correct this grievous injustice in Cook County.. Please join us in our support of our indigenous brothers and sisters and family.

Gabriel Piemonte
Founder and president
Italian American Heritage Society of Chicago

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Gainer, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Thank you in advance,
Grace Barter

Grace Barter
She/Hers

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Gainer, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

With gratitude,

Colin, with Indigenous Peoples' Day Coalition

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Bridget Gainer from District 10, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!"

Thank you
[Jessica Valencia]

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Britton, and I strongly and fervently support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!"

With gratitude,
Dan Roller, with Indigenous Peoples' Day Coalition

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Luis Arroyo Jr. and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

In Solidarity,

Jessica Olson

She / Her / Hers

Logan Square Solidarity Sundays

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Sean Morrison, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

With gratitude,
Tammy Georgiou
Palos Hills

Hello,

I am writing to ask you to support the move to change the Columbus Day commemoration to indigenous peoples day. It's long past time that we recognize the first people who stewarded this land and move past the narrative that links America's origins to European colonialism. Columbus Day is not a holiday that has been celebrated since the arrival of Europeans - in fact, it came relatively late as a way of elevating the status of Italian Americans in a country that treated those immigrants poorly. Italian Americans no longer face that level of discrimination, while Native Americans continue to be among our most disadvantaged citizens. It is important that the stories we tell about our country are grounded in truth and it is time to correct our narrative, as well as honor those who came long before most of us.

Thanks for your consideration.

Best,
Elaine Waxman

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Daley, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

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Kristin Boza
Writer, Editor

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Sean Morrison and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves.

Sincerely,
Gloria Avalos

I reside in Commissioner Miller's south suburban district and I support observing and celebrating Indigenous People's Day in lieu of Columbus Day. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Margaret Hagerman

Greetings and Salutations!

As a constituent of Kevin Morrison, I formally support updating Columbus Day to the Indigenous Peoples' Day. As a member of the Asian American community, I stand with the Indigenous community on this amazing and historic change. This summer, the majority of Americans agreed that each one of us need to do better when it comes to racism. When we are confronted with it, we must come together to face it.

Organizations like Aunt Jemima, Uncle Ben's, The Cleveland Indians, The Washington Football Team and many others across the country have made great changes to their names and branding that they had previously thought unthinkable. Now I and many thousands of like-minded Cook County residents are looking to you. Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves has the power to help update Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. It's simply the right thing to do.

I hope I can count on you change to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Sincerely,
Mayumi Tiburzi
Schaumburg, IL

Greetings!

My name is Leigh Kelsey and I'm a constituent of Commissioner Arroyo.

I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Thank you for your time.

Leigh

"Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Gainer, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!"

With gratitude,
Bethany Beaver

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Lowry, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Sincerely,

Charles Klepac

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Gainer, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

--

sophie lipman
community arts organizer

Dear Cook County Board of Commissioners,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Luis Arroyo, Jr., and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. It is beyond time for our county and community to honor the Indigenous peoples on whose unceded land we're all living. Further, it is imperative for us to acknowledge the harmful colonial legacy of Columbus and other colonizers in the history of our country. I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!"

With gratitude,
Shelley Miller

Hello.

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Stanley Moore and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who support this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!"

Thank you,
Sal Campbell

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Daley, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Thank you,

Rev. Alicia Reese

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Pastor Alicia Reese

Founder/Facilitator, [re]story

Associate Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Daley, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! As a person with indigenous ancestors, I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Thank you,
Courtney E Reese

Dear Bridget -

Hello! I've met you at several 39th Ward Dems gatherings and at Peterson Park Association meetings at Solomon Elementary. I really admire so many things that you do and the fact that you represent us well while juggling kids. It's hard.

You may have actually met my son, he's an Indigenous Mayan boy. He was born in rural Guatemala (getting hit by the second hurricane in two weeks today). He's not at all 'hispanic' -- he is truly 100% Mayan; an Indigenous person here in the 'new world' waaaay before Columbus accidentally stumbled here.

It is very **very important to us to honor Indigenous Peoples** and let the world know that Columbus 'discovered' nothing and in fact was a **murderer** and **rapist**. At the very least we shouldn't honor him. It is hurtful that our society does this, especially a diverse city like Chicago.

Please consider my request to get us out of the time of fake, Western-history based history. **Update the name to Indigenous Peoples Day.**

Thank you very much,
Catherine King, Esq

Good morning!

I'm a constituent of Commissioner John P. Daley, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Have a good Thursday!

Veronica Garcia

“Hello. I’m a constituent of Commissioner Suffredin, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples’ Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!"

I volunteer at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian and I know that Mr. Suffredin is a supporter of the Museum who has attended our gala events.

Thanks for supporting this needed change in focus away from Columbus to Indigenous people of this area.

Thanks,

Carol

--

Carol Muskin

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Deer, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves."

Rachel Lyons

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Degnen, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves! It is LONG overdue.

Sincerely,

Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, PhD

Dean of Faculty

Professor of Theology & Ethics

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Hello Bridget Gainer

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Bridget Gainer, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution that will be introduced at the Nov Board Meeting to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day!

Thoughtfully,

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Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Peter Silvestri, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Peace & blessings,
Paul Marcinkowski

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner John Daley, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Scott Kibler

Hi,

My name is Ashley and I would like to say that I think we need to change Christopher Columbus Day to indigenous peoples day. I think that this would be a positive change, considering that indigenous people have been pushed to the side for everything. To think that they have to see people celebrating a day where someone came over and caused destruction, is sad. Please consider changing the name of the holiday. You may not support people getting rid of statues, but I don't see why someone wouldn't support this. I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!"

Thank you,
Ashley

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Gainer and I'd like to express my support for changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. I'm hoping to count on your support for the resolution to change the name. It is a necessary step in the process we face as a nation of coming to terms with our past and recognizing the harm that we caused to the indigenous communities of this land.

There are thousands of residents who support this change and I urge you to hear their voices. Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves should recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, giving them the honor they deserve.

Sincerely,

Abby Greaney
Cook County Resident

Cook County Board and Commissioner Daley.

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Daley, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Please take this important action during this month, which is designated as Native American Heritage Month. The legacy of Columbus is tainted with violence and injustice and it must be renamed to honor the survival of Indigenous peoples.

Best,

Carmen Garcia

Good morning,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Anaya, and I am writing to support celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of Columbus Day. I am asking for your support for the resolution to change the holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and for the Cook County Forest Preserves. Indigenous people have deep roots in this area, and I would love to see more attention given to that history.

Thank you,
Tracy O'Dowd

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Britton, and I strongly support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Best,
Robert Blumstein

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Arroyo, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Continuing to celebrate Columbus, who set the pattern for European genocide of Indigenous Americans, is a blight on our state and our nation. I hope we can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County.

Best,
Eleanor Ray

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner Britton, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support as well for the resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Thank you,

Jenna Markowski

Hello,

I ask this as a voter and an Italian-American: please change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. It is well past time, and it is one of the bare minimums of decency you could show a historically oppressed and marginalized group.

Thank you.

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Best,

Tim Baffoe

Hello,

I'm a constituent of Commissioner _____, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Adam Claypool

"Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner John Daley, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day! I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!"

With gratitude,

William Beaulieu
Oak lawn Il

Hello. I'm a constituent of Commissioner Bridget Degnen, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change can count on your support also for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves!

Sincerely,
Louise Cloutier

Hello,

I am a constituent of Commissioner Arroyo, and I support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day.

I hope the many thousands of residents in Cook County who are supportive of this change, like myself, can count on your support for the Resolution to change the name of the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous People's Day for Cook County and the Cook County Forest Preserves.

Sincerely,

Laura Fairbank