



Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Amer. Assoc. Ital Teachers

Assoc Region. Sicilia ARSA

Calabresi in America

CIACO

Columbian Club

Elk Grove Village Sis Cities

Flowers of Italy

Fra Noi

Hardcore Italians

Italo National Union IANU

IA Exec of Trans. IAET

IA Human Relations

IA Political Coalition

IA Veterans Museum

IA Veterans Posts/Auxiliaries

IA Women's Organization

Ital Catholic Federation 392

JCCIA Women's Division

Justinian Society

Marchegiana Society

Mazzini Verdi Club

National IA Sports Hall of Fame

Old Neighborhood IA Club

Panaramus

SS. Maria di Costantinopoli

San Francesco Di Paola

San Giovanni Bosco

San Rocco Di Potenza

Shrine of Our Lady Of Mount Carmel

Shrine of Our lady of Pompeii

Società Santa Fara di Cinisi (Chicago)

Sons and Daughters of Italy

Unico Chicago West Suburban

Dear Columbus Day Coalition and JCCIA members,

There is no denying this is one of the most trying times of our modern day celebration of our heritage. The Chicago Board of Education is trying to usurp Columbus Day, and our Columbus monuments across the country are a focal point of angst. While Italian Americans across the country are launching fiery responses, responses from our sister communities must be tailored for each respective community.

Our passion and fiery emotions in the Chicagoland community are warranted. However, we must remember, this is a marathon and not a sprint. Our community is unique. What works in New York or California does not necessarily work in Chicago.

The JCCIA Columbus Day Coalition and our members have cultivated broad support of Christopher Columbus from numerous state representatives, a diverse representation of Chicago's City Council, support from the Mayor's office, and other local mayors and community leaders. We need to continue to build on the strength of this coalition as we navigate through these treacherous political waters.

Now, more than ever, we must remember one thing: We are stronger together than divided apart.

Diplomacy and support with our state and local government leaders is our strength.

As Italian Americans, we are ever mindful of those of us who have endured horrific discrimination and continue to be the subject of stereotypical degradation in popular culture. Christopher Columbus is a symbol of our resilience as a people; a cultural that has shaped landscape of this great nation.

Our position is clear: Tearing down public property that are public works of art will not solve our country's problems. Our most challenging problems requires all of us to work together. We are committed to this and have articulated our position to elected officials, law enforcement, and park officials and they are positively responding to this message.

The JCCIA public affairs and crisis communication team are in constant contact with elected officials and staff. We are monitoring social media outlets. JCCIA is following an aggressive path to securing not only our statues, our day, but also upholding our parade.

We will share pertinent details as they progress.

As always, please share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Sergio Giangrande

President

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