

Councilmember Finney,

I see that resolution RES 15-1450 will be discussed at the Wednesday, August 12 meeting of the St. Paul City Council. This resolution is "Declaring the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day in the City of Saint Paul..."

The resolution fails to note that the second Monday in October is the official observance of Columbus Day in the United States. Thus the city of Saint Paul is actually eliminating Columbus Day. At the very least, the resolution should be written to make this point clear and not try to keep its true purpose a secret.

I have great respect for all Indigenous Peoples and have no problem with a day honoring them. However, I don't understand why the City Council can only honor one group of people by dishonoring another, in this case the many generations of Italian-Americans who quite literally helped make St. Paul into the city it is today.

I've heard the arguments about why Christopher Columbus and Columbus Day represent all that is evil in this country and don't propose to debate them here. I just want to say Columbus Day was and still is very meaningful to many Italian-Americans and it is an insult and a great show of disrespect to eliminate it so callously.

Therefore I am proposing a few changes in RES 15-1450:

- 1) Declare the second Monday in October as Italian-Americans Day thus eliminating the "problems" with Columbus Day, and
- 2) Pick any one of the other 364 days of the year and declare it as Indigenous Peoples Day, thus still honoring the Indigenous Peoples without dishonoring the Italian-Americans.

I'm not naive enough to think the City Council will give this proposal any serious consideration but I figure it couldn't hurt to suggest an alternative.

Your Italian-American constituent from Ward 7,

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