

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 415

Approved: October 24, 2024

WHEREAS, Italian Americans have made significant contributions to the history, culture, and society of the United States, and have deeply shaped the cultural, social, and economic fabric of Providence, Rhode Island, where their influence can be seen in vibrant neighborhoods, the arts, local businesses, and more; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Presidential Proclamation 6045 of October 1989 established Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month, honoring the centuries of achievements and valuable contributions of Italian Americans to our society, a legacy which Providence proudly celebrates each October; and

WHEREAS, Over 5 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 2000, and today, more than 17 million Americans of Italian descent reside in the U.S., including many who have played pivotal roles in shaping Providence's rich heritage, such as Marissa Castelli, Evelyn V. (Verdi) Fagnoli, Peter Pezzelli, and Albert Russo; and

WHEREAS, While we celebrate Italian heritage, we must also acknowledge the history of Italian exploration and colonization, which contributed to the oppression and displacement of Indigenous peoples, particularly in the Americas, and recognize the lasting impacts colonization has had on the original inhabitants of this land; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence acknowledges the need to address historical wrongs while celebrating the joint contributions of Italian Americans and Indigenous peoples to our city's progress and well-being, creating an inclusive narrative that honors all voices and legacies; and

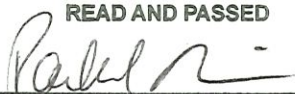

WHEREAS, Both Italian Americans and Indigenous peoples have persevered through adversity, and their shared contributions to Providence's economy, culture, and governance are a testament to their strength and resilience; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence stands committed to fostering mutual understanding, respect, and unity among all communities, particularly as we acknowledge the past while focusing on shared futures of peace and prosperity.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Providence does hereby proclaim October as Italian Heritage Month, celebrating the cultural heritage, contributions, and achievements of Italian Americans, while also honoring the resilience and successes of Indigenous peoples, including those of Italian descent, who have contributed to our city's rich and diverse heritage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Providence reaffirms its commitment to fostering mutual respect, unity, and shared futures, recognizing both the contributions of Italian Americans and the need to address the historical injustices faced by Indigenous peoples, as we move forward together in the spirit of equity and cooperation.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
OCT 17 2024  
READ AND PASSED

  
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT  
  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor  
Date: 10/24/24