



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Roberto C. Treviño
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Tina Flores, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Renaming of Columbus Park and removal of Christopher Columbus statue
DATE: June 15, 2020

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

The renaming of Columbus Park to Piazza Italia, the removal of the statue of Christopher Columbus, and the return of the statue to the Christopher Columbus Italian Society – the organization that donated the statue to the City.

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Brief Background

San Antonio has a rich history of immigrant communities creating a home in our city and thriving. At the end of the nineteenth century, the Italian community in San Antonio flourished on what is now the northern edge of downtown and founded the Christopher Columbus Italian Society in May 1890, built the Italian Catholic Church (San Francesco di Paola) in 1927 and the Italian Hall in 1928 making it one of the oldest Italian societies in the country. It was the first Italian Hall in the State of Texas and on October 12, 1957, the Society donated a statue, made in Italy, of Christopher Columbus to the City of San Antonio.

The Italian Society and its Board have requested the removal of the statue and will accept the return of the statue to their organization. With the renaming of the park, the City will continue to honor the significant contributions Italian immigrants made to our community in the heart of their former neighborhood. To recognize the site of the Italian neighborhood, the Italian Society will work with the Office of Historic Preservation on the creation of a plaque marking the location of the neighborhood that will be placed on the plinth of the removed statue. The Italian Society supports the renaming of the Columbus Park to Piazza Italia.



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Submitted for Council consideration by: _____

Councilman Roberto C. Treviño

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

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