

ORDINANCE 2020-08-13-0532

**ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPROVING THE REMOVAL OF THE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS STATUE FROM COLUMBUS PARK; APPROVING THE CONVEYANCE OF THE STATUE TO THE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ITALIAN SOCIETY; AND RENAMING OF COLUMBUS PARK TO PIAZZA ITALIA PARK LOCATED AT 500 COLUMBUS STREET IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 1.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEREAS**, a Council Consideration Request (CCR) was sponsored by Councilmember Treviño on June 15, 2020, requesting the return of the Christopher Columbus statue located at Columbus Park to the Christopher Columbus Italian Society (Society) and the renaming of Columbus Park to Piazza Italia Park; and

**WHEREAS**, he has worked diligently with the Society and local indigenous groups to reach an understanding that would unify the community in this public green space; and

**WHEREAS**, San Antonio has a rich history of immigrant communities creating a home and thriving in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 and 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; and

**WHEREAS**, it was the first Italian Hall in the State of Texas and on October 12, 1957, the Society donated to the City of San Antonio a statue made in Italy of Christopher Columbus; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of this rich history, the Society proposes to work with the Offices of Arts & Culture and Historic Preservation on the creation of a plaque marking the location of the Italian community to be placed on the plinth in place of the statue; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 25, 2020 the Christopher Columbus statue located in the park was vandalized; and

**WHEREAS**, the statue was removed from the park on July 1, 2020 in the interest of public safety and to prevent further vandalism to the City-owned asset; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost associated with this administrative action totaled \$5,000.00 and was covered by the adopted Fiscal Year 2020 Parks Department operating budget; and

**WHEREAS**, to facilitate the renaming process of Columbus Park, a committee was established to hold a public hearing on this proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the committee consisted of Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director; Shanon Miller, Office of Historic Preservation Director; Paolo Cristadoro, Christopher Columbus Italian Society; and Erik Sanden, District 1 Parks and Recreation Board Member; and

**WHEREAS**, notice of the public hearing was advertised in the San Antonio Express-News on July 12; advertised through digital ad in the Rivard Report daily from July 9 through July 16; advertised in La Prensa in Spanish on July 12, 2020; and advertised in the Southside Reporter on July 14, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, notice was also posted on the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation and the City's SASpeakUp websites in addition to the distribution of multiple media releases; and

**WHEREAS**, direct notification was mailed to residents and businesses within a 200-foot radius of the park; and

**WHEREAS**, the public hearing was held via videoconference on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. Public input was read on the proposed park renaming, which 34 individuals commented in favor of renaming the park and 22 were in opposition; and

**WHEREAS**, the committee unanimously voted to recommend to the City Council that Columbus Park be renamed to Piazza Italia Park located at 500 Columbus Street; **NOW THEREFORE:**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:**

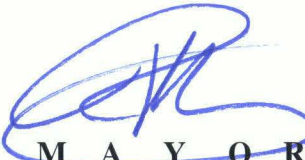
**SECTION 1.** The removal of the Christopher Columbus statue from Columbus Park located at 500 Columbus Street in Council District 1 is hereby approved. The City Manager or designee, or the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department or designee, is authorized to convey and transfer ownership of the statue to the Christopher Columbus Italian Society.

**SECTION 2.** Columbus Park located at 500 Columbus Street in Council District 1 is hereby renamed "Piazza Italia Park."

**SECTION 3.** This Ordinance is effective immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise, it is effective ten days after passage.

SW/ah  
08/13/20  
Item No. 30


**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.



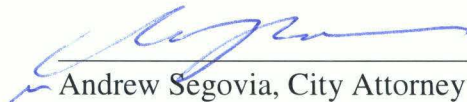
**M A Y O R**  
**Ron Nirenberg**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Flores, Interim, City Clerk



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Andrew Segovia, City Attorney





## City of San Antonio

City Council  
August 13, 2020

Item: 30

Enactment Number:  
2020-08-13-0532

NAME	MOTION	SECOND	ABSTAIN	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
Ron Nirenberg Mayor				√		
Roberto Treviño Council District 1				√		
Jada Andrews-Sullivan Council District 2				√		
Rebecca Viagran Council District 3				√		
Adriana Rocha Garcia Council District 4				√		
Shirley Gonzales Council District 5				√		
Melissa Cabello Havrda Council District 6				√		
Ana Sandoval Council District 7				√		
Manny Pelaez Council District 8				√		
John Courage Council District 9		√		√		
Clayton Perry Council District 10	√			√		

Comments:

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*Office of the City Clerk*