

October 22, 2024

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Proclaiming October 2024 as Italian American Heritage Month in Los Angeles County

The month of October has been recognized across the United States as Italian American Heritage Month, celebrating the rich history, cultural traditions, and extraordinary contributions of Italian Americans to the fabric of our nation.

Over 5.4 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 2000, with over 26 million Americans of Italian descent living in the United States, making them the fifth largest ethnic group in the nation.

In Los Angeles County specifically, Italian American artists, entrepreneurs, civic leaders, and workers have made lasting contributions from architecture, to cuisine, to entertainment, to labor rights, enriching the diversity that makes Los Angeles County unique and vibrant.

Italian immigrants were instrumental in the development of the fishing industry in San Pedro, which became a cornerstone of Los Angeles County's economy. The County's official seal pays homage to this legacy by featuring a tuna fish, symbolizing the fishing and canning industries at the Port of Los Angeles and celebrating their influence on the County's maritime commerce and growth.

Today, San Pedro is home to approximately 45,000 Italian Americans, making it home to the largest Italian American community in Southern California. This tightknit Italian American

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SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

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BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

community has become a proud and defining feature of the local identity in San Pedro and is worthy of celebration.

Italian American culture, language, and traditions have become an integral part of the mosaic of American life, fostering a sense of community and pride that continues to unite generations of Italian Americans and enrich the broader community of Los Angeles County.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim October 2024 as *Italian American Heritage Month* in Los Angeles County, honoring the achievements and contributions of Italian Americans and recognizing their ongoing role in shaping the social, economic, and cultural life of our County and our nation.

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JH:lo