

ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH

WHEREAS, Over 17 million Americans are of Italian heritage. Their ancestors can be traced back to the country that was the center of the Roman Empire and ultimately the birthplace of the Renaissance. Early navigators and seafarers, important missionaries, and settlers were among the first immigrants to come to our shores; a second wave of immigrants included skilled artisans, painters, sculptors, musicians, and dancers enriched our country with their exquisite skills; and later, street entertainers, tradesmen, statue makers, and stone carvers soon followed the migration to America. We recognize the many contributions Italian-Americans have made to our city and country. For that reason, we honor these early immigrant families and celebrate Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month; and

WHEREAS, Italian-Americans are heirs to a cultural and historical legacy defined by extraordinary achievements. Most notable is the literary genius of Dante, the brilliance of Leonardo Da Vinci, the mastery of Verdi, and the magnificent artwork of Raphael and Michelangelo. The great Italian peninsula is the birthplace of these men, along with other gifted poets, philosophers, and artists. It is the home of the Holy See in Rome, the spiritual home for thousands of Seattle residents; and

WHEREAS, Nearly half a millennium ago, when early Italians journeyed to this hemisphere, they helped to begin exchanges between the Old World and the New. Italian navigators Amerigo Vespucci, Giovanni da Verrazano, and Christopher Columbus, helped shape our modern world by doing what no others had accomplished; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the history of our great city, the descendants of Italian immigrants have been firmly devoted to the values and ideals on which our country was founded. Seattle's Italian-American community continues to inspire others by their devotion to family life, their appreciation for the rewards of education and hard work, and their great faith in God.

NOW, THEREFORE, *be it proclaimed by the Seattle City Council that the month of October 2015 shall be proclaimed as:*

ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH

Council President Tim Burgess

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

Councilmember Jean Godden

Councilmember Bruce Harrell, Sponsor

Councilmember Nick Licata

Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Councilmember John Okamoto

Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

Councilmember Kshama Sawant