



Court of Common Council

CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

OFFICE OF COUNCILWOMAN WILDALIZ BERMUDEZ
&
COUNCILMAN JOSH MICHTOM

For Immediate Release

Hartford Councilmembers Bermúdez and Michtom Call for the Renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day

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Hartford, CT - Hartford City Councilmembers Wildaliz Bermúdez and Josh Michtom, both of the Working Families Party (WFP), have proposed a City Resolution that would acknowledge the second Monday of October every year as Indigenous Peoples' Day, ending the recognition of the holiday as "Columbus Day." The Resolution, which was originally introduced in August, is on the agenda for discussion at the September 14th Hartford Court of Common Council meeting, which would be the last Council meeting before the October holiday. This Resolution comes on the heels of the removal of the City of Hartford's Christopher Columbus statue in June.

"We are incredibly excited to take this long-overdue step toward a just and honest interpretation of history," said Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermúdez, "and we look forward to building a city culture that celebrates indigenous history and culture, and educates our students and families about their true roots. This issue is particularly important for our families of color, as we want them to grow up proud of their histories and cultures; not celebrating the people who committed atrocities upon our ancestors."

Although both of the Councilors submitting this Resolution represent the Working Families Party, they hope that this issue will be a nonpartisan one.

"The Mayor himself has said that there are better heroes to honor Italian-Americans than Christopher Columbus," said Councilman Josh Michtom,



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“The statue has come down, the discussion has been had, and the evidence for Columbus' brutality toward Black and indigenous people, although long ignored, is not in doubt. Changing the name of the holiday is a small, but important, step toward reckoning with the harm that our nation has caused indigenous people in Hartford and beyond. We ask our City Council colleagues to take this important step with us now, so that we may celebrate Hartford's first Indigenous Peoples' Day this year.”