

Sheree Kansas

From: Mary Salas
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 4:59 PM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: Do the right thing and permanently remove the Christopher Columbus Statue

From: Alberto Pulido [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 4:43 PM
To: Mary Salas; Jill Galvez; John McCann; Steve C. Padilla
Subject: Do the right thing and permanently remove the Christopher Columbus Statue

Warning:
External
Email

Dear Chula Vista City Council:

I am in full support of the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue from Discovery Park and ask that the City Council fully ratify the resolution put forth by the Human Relations Commission.

Public places and monuments should mirror and fully embrace the spirit and culture of the people of the community in which they are located. Hence, the question becomes how can a Columbus monument that symbolizes enslavement and genocide of first nation people remain in the integral and diverse community that stands on its principle of offering its residents "Beautiful Vistas" or Chula Vistas? Such monuments are in direct opposition to the vision and spirit of Chula Vista's residents and city leaders.

As a lifelong resident of San Diego who grew up in the South Bay, our indigenous and borderland/fronterizo cultures consist of a profound and respectful history that remain strong without the need of being "discovered" as conveyed in park's name. I urge the City Council to recognize and honor these foundational traditions of Chula Vista's character and identity.

Let's honor and stand on the history and traditions of our Indegenious communities and permanently remove the Columbus statue along with a renaming of the park that honors our first nation communities.

Make us all proud City Council by doing the right thing!

Sincerely,

Alberto Pulido, PhD

Alberto López Pulido
Professor of Ethnic Studies
Director of Turning Wheel Project
University of San Diego
ProfeLópezPulido

"God is always on the side of the oppressed."
Black Pastors on the Steps of St. John Church - 06.02.20

- Turning Wheel Project: <https://www.sandiego.edu/cas/ethnic-studies/turning-wheel/>
- Chicano Park Museum: Logan Heights Documentation Project: [Museum](#)
- The Power of Chicano Park: [Profe@ThePark](#)

Sheree Kansas

From: Mary Salas
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: Permanently Remove the Christopher Columbus Statue from Discovery Park

From: Julia Medina [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 10:10 AM
To: Mary Salas; Jill Galvez; John McCann; Steve C. Padilla; Mike Diaz; kanapkuahan@gmail.com
Subject: Permanently Remove the Christopher Columbus Statue from Discovery Park

Warning:
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Email

Dear Members of the Chula Vista City Council:

I appreciate and commend you for removing the statue of Christopher Columbus from Discovery Park, and ask that the city council ratify the resolution that was sent before you by the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission about this in February.

The time is past due for Chula Vista to do what is right and what our times demand. We all now know the truth about Columbus as a symbol violence, racism and genocide, on top of the fact that he didn't even know where he ever went. Any statues and symbols of racism cause great emotional and physical harm to Native Peoples as well as to members of African-American, Mexican, Chicano, Latin American, and other Persons of Color.

Removing the statue of Christopher Columbus is not erasing history; it is correcting it and showing willingness to move towards healing, unity and moving forward as a community. I urge you to permanently remove the statue to Columbus, re-name "Discovery" Park, and recognize Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day. Our historical juncture and the geographical location demands it!

Sincerely,

[Julia Medina]
[REDACTED]

Julia M. Medina Ph D
Associate Professor of Spanish
Department of Languages, Cultures, and Literatures
Affiliated Faculty, Latin American Studies Program
University of San Diego

Sheree Kansas

From: Mary Salas
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: Removal of Columbus Statue

From: Sheryl Sanchez [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Mary Salas; Jill Galvez; John McCann; Steve C. Padilla; Mike Diaz
Subject: Removal of Columbus Statue

Warning: External Email

Dear Members of the Chula Vista City Council:

I thank and applaud you for removing the statue of Christopher Columbus from Discovery Park, and ask that the city council ratify the resolution that was sent before you by the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission about this issue in February.

As a resident of Chula Vista since 1960, I have witnessed many changes in our community over the decades. I love our city! Yet I was horrified to learn last year that there was a statue of Columbus in one of our parks. This offends me on so many levels, especially since we know the truth about what kind of person he really was and what he did. As a designated Welcoming City there is no place for statues or symbols of racism and the emotional and physical harm they cause, especially to Native Peoples and other Persons of Color.

This is not about erasing history; it is about correcting it. A public park should only contain statues or symbols that truly reflect the actual history and diversity of this area.

I urge you to permanently remove the statue to Columbus, re-name "Discovery" Park, and recognize Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Sanchez
[REDACTED]

Sheree Kansas

From: Mary Salas
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 5:54 PM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: Letter to Support Resolution to Remove Columbus Statue

From: Angel Hinzo [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 5:34 PM
To: Mary Salas; John McCann; Jill Galvez; Steve C. Padilla; Mike Diaz
Cc: kanapkuahan@gmail.com
Subject: Letter to Support Resolution to Remove Columbus Statue

Warning:
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Email

Dear Members of the Chula Vista City Council:

I am writing in support of the city council resolution that was raised by the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission in February. Through this resolution, the statue of Christopher Columbus will remain removed from Discovery Park, replaced, the park renamed, and Indigenous People's Day will be instituted within the City of Chula Vista.

By instituting Indigenous People's Day, the city will be joining Los Angeles, Berkeley, Burbank, Long Beach, Santa Cruz, San Fernando, San Luis Obispo, and Watsonville within California. The County of San Diego has the highest concentration of reservations in the United States and the third highest number of urban Native Americans in the state ([census.gov](https://www.census.gov)).

Despite this, many areas within San Diego render Native American people invisible and are unwelcoming. We are living in an important moment in history where we can make meaningful changes for future generations. We can take steps to reconcile histories and change symbols that are designed to exclude and valorize violence.

This is an opportunity to educate and show a commitment to all who call this area home.

Sincerely,

Angel M. Hinzo (Assistant Professor, University of San Diego)

[REDACTED]

Sheree Kansas

From: Francisco Estrada on behalf of Mary Salas
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 11:17 AM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: Removal of Statue

From: Stevon Curry [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Mary Salas <MSalas@chulavistaca.gov>; John McCann <jmccann@chulavistaca.gov>; Jill Galvez <jmgalvez@chulavistaca.gov>; Steve C. Padilla <spadilla@chulavistaca.gov>; Mike Diaz <mdiaz@chulavistaca.gov>
Cc: kanapkuahan@gmail.com
Subject: Removal of Statue

Warning:
External
Email

Hello,

I would like to vote "YES" on the removal of the Columbus statue and to change the Discovery Park. As a longtime basketball coach in the Chula Vista area, I believe the removal of the statue and change of the Discovery Park is a major step in combating oppression and racism.

Best Regards

--
Dean Curry
Boys Basketball
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Virus-free. www.avast.com

Sheree Kansas

From: Francisco Estrada on behalf of Mary Salas
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 11:17 AM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: Resolution on Columbus

From: Don Dumas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Mary Salas <MSalas@chulavistaca.gov>; John McCann <jmccann@chulavistaca.gov>; Jill Galvez <jmgalvez@chulavistaca.gov>; Steve C. Padilla <spadilla@chulavistaca.gov>; Mike Diaz <mdiaz@chulavistaca.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Resolution on Columbus

Warning:
External
Email

Hello Mayor Salas and Councilmembers Diaz, Galvez, McCann, and Padilla,

My name is Don Dumas and I am a longtime resident and taxpayer in our great City of Chula Vista. I am also a history teacher in the Sweetwater Union High School District.

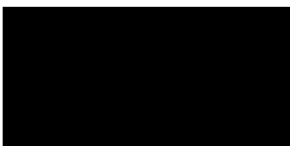
I understand that you will soon be asked to vote on a resolution that will permanently remove the statue of Christopher Columbus from Discovery Park, change the name of the park, as well as other things.

I am asking you all to vote a resounding "Yes!" to this resolution. Passing the resolution unanimously would send a strong message about the future of our community and what we value.

I need not weigh the accomplishments of Columbus against his misdeeds (to put it mildly), but the obvious reason I want you to vote "yes" on the resolution is because it will help to heal the wounds of colonization on our Indigenous community members.

Thank you and have a great day. And thank you for all that you do for our city.

Respectfully,
Don Dumas



Sheree Kansas

From: Francisco Estrada on behalf of Mary Salas
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 11:17 AM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: Permanently Removing the Columbus Statue and Changing Discovery Park

From: B. Casiple [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 10:23 AM
To: John McCann <jmccann@chulavistaca.gov>; Jill Galvez <jmgalvez@chulavistaca.gov>; Mike Diaz <mdiaz@chulavistaca.gov>; Mary Salas <MSalas@chulavistaca.gov>; Steve C. Padilla <spadilla@chulavistaca.gov>
Subject: Permanently Removing the Columbus Statue and Changing Discovery Park

Warning:
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Email

Hello,

My name is Brandon Casiple, a resident here in the city of Chula Vista. I wanted to send this email to encourage you all to vote "Yes" on the resolution to permanently remove the Columbus statue and change the name of Discovery Park. I believe that this change will be a great step towards building community by making space to celebrate the beautiful diversity in the city.

Thank you,

Brandon Casiple

Sheree Kansas

From: Mary Salas
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: Remove Columbus and change Discovery Park

From: Cevallos, Nicolas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Jill Galvez; Mary Salas; Mike Diaz
Subject: Remove Columbus and change Discovery Park

Warning: External Email

Good afternoon,

I am asking you to vote yes to support the resolution removing the statue of Christopher Columbus and instead to honor Indigenous people. I know removing the statue and changing the name will not fix every problem, but it is a step in the right direction for our city. We can use this opportunity to recognize indigenous populations, not an oppressive and hegemonic murderer, thief, and slave trader.

Best,
Nicolas Cevallos
MD Candidate, Class of 2024
UCSF School of Medicine
[REDACTED]

Sheree Kansas

From: Mary Salas
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: Discovery park

From: Isa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Mary Salas; John McCann; Jill Galvez; Steve C. Padilla; Mike Diaz
Cc: kanapkuahan@gmail.com
Subject: Discovery park

Warning: External Email

Hello, my name is Isabella Sandoval, I have lived in Chula Vista for the past 18 years and just graduated from Olympian High School and making my way to Phoenix AZ to study sociology, social work and Spanish. This city has always held such importance to me and its important to me that the city I've lived in for the past 18 years reflects what is important to me and thus amplify the pride I hold for Chula Vista.

The chula vista human relations commission developed a resolution to permanently remove the statue of Christopher Columbus at Discovery park and replace with something that values our community's diversity. The resolution also would like to rename the park itself, and for our city of Chula Vista to rename Columbus Day and declare it "Indigenous People's Day." Lastly, the resolution asks the city to establish a task force that includes Indigenous people as embers in order to help implement above changes.

It is extremely important to me and fellow residents in Chula Vista that you vote yes on the resolution to remove Columbus and change discovery park, there is no need to commemorate such an evil disgusting figure in our city. Thank you.

Isabella Sandoval

Sheree Kansas

From: Mary Salas
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: FW: The removal of the Columbus statue

From: Brittney Kuhn [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 10:39 AM
To: kanapkuahan@gmail.com; Mary Salas; John McCann; Jill Galvez; Steve C. Padilla; Mike Diaz
Subject: The removal of the Columbus statue

Warning:
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Email

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to vote "Yes" on the resolution to remove the Columbus statue and change Discovery Park. Removing this statue does not erase history, it puts our community on the right side of history. We need to tell the truth of our country's history and not glorify the men who destroyed an already occupied land. There are far better statues to erect than Christopher Columbus.

Kindly,
Brittney Suber

Sheree Kansas

Subject: FW: Christopher Columbus Statue

From: Grace Sardina [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 4:30 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@chulavistaca.gov>
Subject: Christopher Columbus Statue

**Warning:
External
Email**

Christopher Columbus is one of history's greatest explorers, an iconic symbol of Italian American pride and now in recent times, a horrific villain. These are sad times for Italian Americans. Our once hero is now being literally torn to the ground, ripped to shreds and erased from our great history. The statue that once stood in discovery park is now sadly sitting in storage. Most of society has no idea what Columbus Day actually stood for, why or when it was created and why its removal is so heartbreaking for our community.

Many indigenous groups saw no reason to celebrate Columbus. With good reason. The indigenous people suffered greatly. Their land was taken. Their people were exposed to diseases that decimated populations. Their way of life was destroyed.

All of that is true. However, we are applying 20th Century morals to a 15th Century man. Columbus was an adventurer and businessman looking for gold and riches. The slave trade was common. While we look back today in horror, we cannot lose fact that it was a different world.

The atrocities committed after the colonization of the Americas after Columbus were committed by the European nations. England, Spain, Portugal and France sent explorers and claimed their own pieces of this paradise of riches. The indigenous suffered for it all with the approval of the Pope and the Catholic church. As our country was formed and independence won from England, the US perpetuated their own genocide and destruction of the indigenous people.

Yet, people want to blame Christopher Columbus.

Columbus Day originated as a celebration of Italian-American heritage. In 1892, following a lynching in New Orleans where a mob had murdered 11 Italian immigrants, President Benjamin Harrison declared Columbus Day as a national celebration. The proclamation was part of a wider effort after the lynching incident to placate Italian Americans and ease diplomatic tensions with Italy.

Because Italian-Americans were struggling against religious and ethnic discrimination in the United States, celebrating the life and accomplishments of Christopher Columbus as a way for Italian Americans to be accepted by the mainstream. As historian Christopher J. Kauffman once wrote, "Italian Americans grounded legitimacy in a pluralistic society by focusing on the Genoese explorer as a central figure in their sense of peoplehood."

In 1937, Columbus Day became a holiday across the United States. Since 1971, it has been celebrated on the second Monday in October. Italian Americans have faced many battles, harsh treatment and discrimination even to this very day. The rise of Columbus celebrations gave the Italian immigrants a way to finally fit in, a way to show they too have a place in this country. Throughout all of the years of countless backlash, discussions and changes, Columbus Day remained a celebration of Italian-American pride. Well, until recently.

I personally wish that all historical statues and monuments would remain in place. The good, the bad and the ugly is part of every country's history. As an American, I am grateful Columbus took his brave voyage. That historic event began the process of over 500 years of worldwide immigration to America. As an Italian American, I am proud of the celebration that was created to celebrate our culture. That celebration still deserves its place in the United States of America with or without Columbus and THAT is what we are fighting for.

Changing Columbus Day to Indigenous people's day is insulting and degrading to our Italian ancestors that fought for us to be here. We no longer need Columbus as our Ambassador. We have risen above the hate, the discrimination, the hardship and fought to be proud Americans. **A day that was created to celebrate Italian American heritage should remain just that.** The second Monday of October should remain OUR day of celebration. You can remove statues but you cannot take away our accomplishments, our contributions and our celebrations. Italian Americans matter in this country and in this community as much as any other group. Just to remind everyone Indigenous peoples day is August 9th.

Native American day is November 27th.

Native American culture month is in November.

If Columbus Day is to be changed, it should remain Italian Heritage Day!

At the end of the day, we are all Americans. We can not change the past but we can write the future. Our Italian community does not wish to cause any further hurt or turmoil with the indigenous community. **We do not want our statue of pride in a place that causes conflict. We would like the statue to be given to the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America.** We are one of largest National Italian American organizations in the country and have two lodges here in San Diego.

Please, show us the same respect that we have shown you and do not change our day of celebration. In October, raise the Italian flag to show respect. Just as you would the LGBTQ Pride Flag, Mexican Flag, Black Lives Matter. We too matter and want the same recognition as any other group.

We will place the statue on private property, out of harm's way and put in Italian American historical museums for the future generations to learn what Columbus meant to Italian Americans for so long and our fight to become the proud Americans we are today.

Grace Sardina

Sheree Kansas

Subject: FW: I thank you for removing the statue of Christopher Columbus . PLEASE MAKE IT PERMANENT!

From: Mario E. Aguilar [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:11 AM
To: Adrianna Hernandez
Subject: Re: I thank you for removing the statue of Christopher Columbus . PLEASE MAKE IT PERMANENT!

Warning:
External
Email

Would you like your comment to be submitted in the record for the item on 9/22 and/or would you like your comment to be submitted under today's public comment portion?

YES TO BOTH,PLEASE.

On 7/14/2020 6:27 AM, Adrianna Hernandez wrote:

Dear Mr. Aguilar:

I hope you and your family are doing well and keeping safe. Thank you for your email to Mayor Mary Casillas Salas regarding the Christopher Columbus statue and Discovery Park. This item has been moved and will now be considered on September 22, 2020.

Would you like your comment to be submitted in the record for the item on 9/22 and/or would you like your comment to be submitted under today's public comment portion?

Public comment is a portion of the City Council agenda where members of the public can submit their comments to the Council on any item that is not on the agenda.

Thank you and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Adrianna Hernandez

Sr. Council Aide | Office of the Mayor & City Council
City of Chula Vista | 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 691-5175 | ADHernandez@chulavistaca.gov

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and sign up for our monthly newsletter to stay connected [here!](#)

From: Mario E. Aguilar [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Mary Salas <MSalas@chulavistaca.gov>; John McCann <jmccann@chulavistaca.gov>; Jill Galvez <jimgalvez@chulavistaca.gov>; Steve C. Padilla <spadilla@chulavistaca.gov>; Mike Diaz <mdiaz@chulavistaca.gov>
Subject: I thank you for removing the statue of Christopher Columbus . PLEASE MAKE IT PERMANENT!

Warning:
External
Email

Saturday, July 11, 2020

Dear Members of the Chula Vista City Council:

I thank and applaud you for removing the statue of Christopher Columbus from Discovery Park, and ask that the city council ratify the resolution that was sent before you by the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission about this in February. I am a taxpayer, voter and resident of Chula Vista for over 40 years. I want our city to be truly welcoming for all. PLEASE MAKE THE REMOVAL PERMANENT!

The time is past due for Chula Vista to truly live up to its name as a Welcoming City. We now know the truth about Columbus. It is known that statues and symbols of racism cause great emotional and physical harm to Native Peoples as well as to members of African-American, Mexican and Chicano, and other Persons of Color. When we know better, we do better.

Removing the statue of Christopher Columbus is not erasing history; it is correcting it.

Recent public demonstrations decrying overt racism in policing sparked by the most recent murder of a Black man, the execution of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, has resulted in worldwide expression of support and the need to change America—that is, change the racist discriminatory practices of its institutions. ALTHOUGH THESE PROTESTS FOCUS ON CURRENT RACIST POLICIES, THEY BRING UP A PAINFUL REMINDER THAT FOR OVER 500 YEARS, RACE, COLOR AND ECONOMIC STATUS HAVE CREATED A CLIMATE OF FEAR FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR.

The statue of Columbus at Discovery Park is another symbol of hate, racism, and genocide. It must be removed. Across the nation, statues that symbolize hate are being removed as a direct result of the pain and suffering caused by the George Floyd murder. Those include:

1. Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia is removing the statue of Robert E. Lee because this statue is “a symbol of buying and selling of enslaved people” and has no place in civil society.
2. In Philadelphia the statue of Mayor Frank Rizzo, a former Police Chief and politician who implemented flagrant racist policies and practices was removed in the middle of the night, after protestors vandalized this statue of a controversial former mayor.
3. The statue of Edward Cornack, former U.S. Senator from Nashville, Tennessee has been removed. He was an ardent opponent of Civil Rights.
4. The statue “Appomattox” commemorating confederate soldiers was removed in Alexandria, Virginia. According to Mayor Justin Wilson, “Alexandria, like all great cities, is constantly changing and evolving.”
5. Columbus statues and Junipero Serra statues have been removed throughout the United States of America.

These are just a few of the most recent removals of racist symbols that cause pain and micro-aggressions among residents. The statue of Columbus must be removed as a first step in removing racists, painful symbols. Chula Vista is better than this. Let’s make Chula Vista a great “welcoming” city. THIS STATUE REPRESENTS THE SUFFERING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAN CONTINENT. BUT IT ALSO REPRESENTS THE UNDERLYING PROBLEM OF “GET OVER IT, WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CHULA VISTA?” IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THE RESIDENTS OF OUR GREAT CITY.

With great respect,
Dr. Mario E. Aguilar



91911-2215

[REDACTED]

--

I live for reasoned, enlightened spirituality:

"Tlaxcelilli", tranquilidad, paz

Mario E. Aguilar, PhD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--

I live for reasoned, enlightened spirituality:

"Tlaxcelilli", tranquilidad, paz

Mario E. Aguilar, PhD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheree Kansas

Subject: FW: Please make the Columbus Statue Removal permanent and ratify the resolution of the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission

From: Andres Ehecatl [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Mary Salas <MSalas@chulavistaca.gov>; Jill Galvez <jmgalvez@chulavistaca.gov>; John McCann <jmccann@chulavistaca.gov>; Steve C. Padilla <spadilla@chulavistaca.gov>; Mike Diaz <mdiaz@chulavistaca.gov>

Subject: Please make the Columbus Statue Removal permanent and ratify the resolution of the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission

Warning:
External
Email

Dear Members of the Chula Vista City Council:

I was so glad to hear that the statue of Christopher Columbus was removed from public display and ask that city council ratify the resolution that was sent before you by the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission about this in February. It is important that my beloved Chula Vista live up to its designation as a *Welcoming City* and that the symbols we have on public display, do not celebrate ideologies of conquest, genocide, and racism.

I am a Chula Vista native, born and raised, attended Hazel Goes Cook Elementary, Hilltop Middle and High Schools before leaving for university. I then returned to Chula Vista to raise my son in this wonderful city. Nonetheless, there is always room for improvement: we must take down this symbol of erasure and rename the park to reflect Chula Vista's local and actual history.

Statues, monuments, and the naming of public spaces and buildings do not teach history, they celebrate people and moments that reflect the ideals of a community. The atrocities committed by Columbus and the ensuing genocide and oppression of indigenous communities across the continent is not something that I believe that the community of Chula Vista should exalt. History should be taught and the place for this nuanced learning is not in monuments, but in schools.

Similarly, the naming of the park as "Discovery Park" erases the fact that Chula Vista is Kumeyaay land. Chula Vista's history does not begin in 1492, and certainly not in Spain. It begins here, with the ancestors of the Kumeyaay. To celebrate Columbus, is to celebrate Spanish, Mexican, and American colonization of this land without regard or reckoning for the terrible impact it has had on the original inhabitants of this land. We are lucky that we are able to live in this beautiful place—but it had its terrible price and this name and statue erase this history.

Finally, I realize that Columbus is a hero to some. Firstly, Chula Vista should be welcoming to all not some. Second, if Columbus is as a hero to a specific Church, our city and nation are secular with a separation of church and state. That is, Columbus's significance to a church is not a reason to erase the history of genocide and celebrate symbols of conquest, oppression, and white supremacy.

I thank you and applaud you for taking down this hurtful symbol from public space and ask that you ratify the resolution by the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission.

Sincerely,

Andres E. Aguilar, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, SDSU

Sheree Kansas

Subject: FW: Permanent Removal of Christopher Columbus
Attachments: Letter - Chula Vista Mayor and Council.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Rachael [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Mary Salas <MSalas@chulavistaca.gov>; Jill Galvez <jmgalvez@chulavistaca.gov>; John McCann <jmccann@chulavistaca.gov>; Steve C. Padilla <spadilla@chulavistaca.gov>; Mike Diaz <mdiaz@chulavistaca.gov>
Subject: Permanent Removal of Christopher Columbus

Warning: External Email

Dear Mayor Salas and Council-members,

Please see my attached letter requesting that you "permanently" remove the statue of Christopher Columbus.

I am deeply committed to assist in this effort. Columbus is not a personality to be honored not in any way.

Thank you for reading my letter and please call if you have any questions.

Rachael Ortiz, Chula Vista Resident.
[REDACTED]

July 10, 2020

The Honorable Mary Salas, Mayor
City of Chula Vista
The Honorable Steve Padilla, Council-member
The Honorable Mike Diaz, Council-member
The Honorable Jill Galvez, Council-member
The Honorable John McCann, Council-member

Chula Vista City Hall
276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Re: Request to "permanently" remove the statue of Christopher Columbus

I am a resident of Chula Vista who is astounded at learning that a "Discovery" Park is associated with Christopher Columbus implying that he discovered this continent when all the while we were here first and will always be here, despite the atrocities that Columbus practiced in his monstrous efforts to extinguish us. Christopher Columbus is described as a perverse madman who raped, pillaged and flat-out lied about his murders and other horrendous acts against the indigenous Indians of the Caribbean.

In his own journal he wrote that the unsuspecting Indians willingly traded cotton balls, beautiful exotic parrots, and more but Columbus was about Blood for Gold! He returned to Spain with captured slaves of which 200 died while en route, and came back with 17 ships and 1,200 murdering criminals and sliced, beheaded, burned alive and raped, spread venereal diseases and sicknesses and chopped off the hands of Indians who failed to bring in a certain amounts of gold every 3 months. Many of these Indians were only 14 years of age.

He committed kidnap, took hostages and went into the slave trade by selling Indians to the Spaniards and killed members of families, including children, in the sight of those familial relatives. He sexually ravaged hostages, killed and mangled and destroyed tribes and found deranged pleasure in doing so.

He is not worthy of your consideration to "honor" him as many statues and amenities that bear his name will continue to tumble down throughout this land beyond. Please join the recommendations of the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission of February 27, 2020 and remove the statue permanently. I am familiar with the KANAP HUAHAN COALITION comprised of Mexican Americans and Kumeyaay peoples. They are brave and highly respected leaders of our indigenous communities. I honor them and support their efforts including them to officially rename the replacement of the statue and perhaps the park, since no one really discovered us and it was we who discovered and respected the healing power of food and herbs and clean water and all that Mother Earth provided. The monumental discovery by Europeans was that the world was not flat after all.

Thank you,


Rachael Ortiz, Resident



Sheree Kansas

Subject: FW: I thank you for removing the statue of Christopher Columbus . PLEASE MAKE IT PERMANENT!

Attachments: Dear Members of the Chula Vista City Council.docx

From: Mario E. Aguilar [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 12:18 PM

To: Mary Salas <MSalas@chulavistaca.gov>; John McCann <jmccann@chulavistaca.gov>; Jill Galvez <jmgalvez@chulavistaca.gov>; Steve C. Padilla <spadilla@chulavistaca.gov>; Mike Diaz <mdiaz@chulavistaca.gov>

Subject: I thank you for removing the statue of Christopher Columbus . PLEASE MAKE IT PERMANENT!

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Saturday, July 11, 2020

Dear Members of the Chula Vista City Council:

I thank and applaud you for removing the statue of Christopher Columbus from Discovery Park, and ask that the city council ratify the resolution that was sent before you by the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission about this in February. I am a taxpayer, voter and resident of Chula Vista for over 40 years. I want our city to be truly welcoming for all. PLEASE MAKE THE REMOVAL PERMANENT!

The time is past due for Chula Vista to truly live up to its name as a Welcoming City. We now know the truth about Columbus. It is known that statues and symbols of racism cause great emotional and physical harm to Native Peoples as well as to members of African-American, Mexican and Chicano, and other Persons of Color. When we know better, we do better.

Removing the statue of Christopher Columbus is not erasing history; it is correcting it.

Recent public demonstrations decrying overt racism in policing sparked by the most recent murder of a Black man, the execution of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, has resulted in worldwide expression of support and the need to change America—that is, change the racist discriminatory practices of its institutions. **ALTHOUGH THESE PROTESTS FOCUS ON CURRENT RACIST POLICIES, THEY BRING UP A PAINFUL REMINDER THAT FOR OVER 500 YEARS, RACE, COLOR AND ECONOMIC STATUS HAVE CREATED A CLIMATE OF FEAR FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR.** The statue of Columbus at Discovery Park is another symbol of hate, racism, and genocide. It must be removed. Across the nation, statues that symbolize hate are being removed as a direct result of the pain and suffering caused by the George Floyd murder. Those include:

1. Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia is removing the statue of Robert E. Lee because this statue is “a symbol of buying and selling of enslaved people” and has no place in civil society.
2. In Philadelphia the statue of Mayor Frank Rizzo, a former Police Chief and politician who implemented flagrant racist policies and practices was removed in the middle of the night, after protestors vandalized this statue of a controversial former mayor.
3. The statue of Edward Cornack, former U.S. Senator from Nashville, Tennessee has been removed. He was an ardent opponent of Civil Rights.
4. The statue “Appomattox” commemorating confederate soldiers was removed in Alexandria, Virginia. According to Mayor Justin Wilson, “Alexandria, like all great cities, is constantly changing and evolving.”
5. Columbus statues and Junipero Serra statues have been removed throughout the United States of America.

These are just a few of the most recent removals of racist symbols that cause pain and micro-aggressions among residents. The statue of Columbus must be removed as a first step in removing racists, painful symbols. Chula Vista is better than this. Let's make Chula Vista a great "welcoming" city.

THIS STATUE REPRESENTS THE SUFFERING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAN CONTINENT. BUT IT ALSO REPRESENTS THE UNDERLYING PROBLEM OF "GET OVER IT, WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CHULA VISTA?" IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THE RESIDENTS OF OUR GREAT CITY.

With great respect,
Dr. Mario E. Aguilar



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I live for reasoned, enlightened spirituality:

"Tlaxcelilli", tranquilidad, paz
Mario E. Aguilar, PhD



Saturday, July 11, 2020

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With great respect,

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