

Council Member Flynn introduced the following:

Resolution Number 91.101.22 (MC)

**RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL COMMEMORATING
OCTOBER AS NATIONAL ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, Italians and Italian-Americans have contributed to the United States in all aspects of life, including art, science, civil service, military service, athletics, education, law and politics; and

WHEREAS, Italian Americans have won prestigious prizes, such as the Nobel Prize, the Pritzker Award for architecture, and the Fields Medal for mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Italians and Italian Americans invented pianos, violins, calendars, radios, telescopes, compasses, microscopes, thermometers, eye glasses, steam engines, typewriters and batteries; and

WHEREAS, Italy enjoys a rich cultural heritage and has given the world many great works, such as the writings of Virgil and Dante, the breathtaking works of renaissance artists, architects, and sculptures such as Giotto, Botticelli, Da Vinci, and Michelangelo, and the inspirational music of Antonio Vivaldi and Domenico Scarlatti; and

WHEREAS, Giuseppe Verdi, one of the world's most renowned opera composers, was born October 10, 1813; and

WHEREAS, Italian cuisine has become a staple of American culture, with examples like pizza and parmigiana; and

WHEREAS, our freedom itself was gained with the help of three Italian regiments that crossed the Atlantic to fight in the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, in later wars and conflicts, dozens of Italian-Americans would receive the Medal of Honor including Albany native Peter D'Alessandro; and

WHEREAS, the phrase in the Declaration of Independence "All men are created equal", was paraphrased from the writings of the Italian patriot and immigrant Philip Mazzei; and

WHEREAS, William Paca, an Italian-American, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, Italian Americans have toiled and labored while helping to build our Nation's infrastructure, including railroads, tunnels, highways and subways; and

WHEREAS, a great many Americans have enjoyed the entertainment provided by Italian Americans, such as Hall of Fame baseball players Joe DiMaggio and Phil Rizzuto, singer and

songwriter Frank Sinatra, world-renowned composer Henry Mancini, bestselling author Mario Puzo, and Oscar-winning actor Robert DeNiro; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States take great pride in the accomplishments of the many outstanding men and women of Italian descent who have enriched our Nation's history in the scientific field such as Enrico Fermi, who won the 1938 Nobel Prize in Physics; and

WHEREAS, great Italian American political figures, such as Fiorella LaGuardia (who was both Mayor of, then Congressman from, New York City), Anthony Celebrezze (who, in the Kennedy administration, was the first Italian American Cabinet member), Geraldine Ferraro (who was a congresswoman from queens and the first woman on a Vice-Presidential ticket), Antonin Scalia (who, in 1982, became the first Italian American Supreme Court Justice), and First Lady Jill Biden have enriched the political process and brought national pride to our country; and

WHEREAS, over 6 million Italians have immigrated to the United States, which today has resulted in million Americans of Italian descent in the United States, making them the five percent of the Americans and 15 percent of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Italian Americans have a large presence in the City of Albany, with organizations like the Italian American Community Center and Sons of Italy performing commendable work supporting the Italian-American community; and

WHEREAS, during October special attention should be directed in our schools and other local programs to promote Italian heritage and culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Albany supports the goals and ideas of "Italian-American Heritage Month" and encourages the community to recognize the significant contributions that Italian-Americans have made to the United States.

To: Danielle Gillespie, City Clerk
From: Jake Eisland, Research Counsel
Re: Request for Common Council Legislation
Supporting Memorandum
Date: September 29, 2022

RESOLUTION NUMBER 91.101.22R

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL COMMEMORATING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

To commemorate Italian-American Heritage Month and recognizes the accomplishments of Italian-Americans.

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT(S)

N/A

MESSAGE OF NECESSITY

This resolution is requested for addition to the agenda by majority consent because October is Italian-American Heritage Month and it would be preferable to declare October as such at the beginning of the month, rather than at the second October meeting, to be held on October 17th.