

Wilmington, Delaware
February 19, 2026

#0184

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington is committed to fostering a community rooted in inclusion, equity, and respect for the dignity and history of all people. The City of Wilmington removed statues of Christopher Columbus and Caesar Rodney in June 2020, citing concerns over damage to the statues as well as intentions to have "an overdue discussion about the public display of historical figures and events," according to then-Mayor Michael Purzycki; and

WHEREAS, public monuments placed on City property represent values that the City chooses to elevate and honor in shared civic spaces. Since 2018, over 40 other statues of Christopher Columbus have been removed nationwide, either by force or through government intervention, in response to this historical figure's role in the initiation of colonization in the Americas, resulting in violence, exploitation, enslavement, and the devastating impact on Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington recognizes the important contributions of Italian Americans to the cultural, civic, and economic life of this City and affirms that honoring those contributions need not rely on figures whose actions conflict with our present-day values; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council has a responsibility to ensure that public spaces are welcoming to all residents and do not perpetuate harm or marginalization. Many residents of Wilmington, including Indigenous peoples and their descendants, experience public monuments honoring Christopher Columbus as symbols of historical trauma and exclusion. Reinstalling the Christopher Columbus statue, without regard to the public outcry against it, would further reinforce the traumas experienced by communities with histories of repression.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body recommends the Administration not reinstall the previously removed Christopher Columbus statue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the installation of the Christopher Columbus statue at the proposed Father Tucker Park site, or any alternative location in the City of Wilmington, runs counter to our City's commitment to ensuring that our public spaces reflect truth, accountability, and shared humanity.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: The Wilmington City Council strongly opposes the reinstallation of the statue of Christopher Columbus. The reinstallation of the Christopher Columbus statue at the proposed Father Tucker Park site, or any alternative location in the City of Wilmington, runs counter to our City's commitment to ensuring that our public spaces reflect truth, accountability, and shared humanity.