

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, From 1880 to 1920, an estimated 4 million Italian immigrants arrived in the United States. The Italian unification in 1861, exhausted soil, and high taxes and tariffs drove many Italians out of their homeland, specifically in Southern Italy and Sicily; *and*

WHEREAS, During this time, about a thousand Italian immigrant families came to Boston. These immigrants did not speak English and had to take low-wage jobs to support themselves and their families; *and*

WHEREAS, Today, Americans of Italian descent are the nation's seventh-largest ethnic group, with over 26 million Americans of Italian descent residing in the United States; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2014, people of Italian descent formed the second largest ancestry group in Boston, making up 8.2% of the population. In Massachusetts, 13.6% of the population were of Italian descent; *and*

WHEREAS, The North End, often referred to as Boston's "Little Italy," is a one-square-mile waterfront community and a significant public attraction drawing in thousands of tourists and Bostonians yearly; *and*

WHEREAS, Italian restaurants, bakeries, and grocery stores line Hanover Street and Salem Street to embrace the Italian heritage through unique cuisines and food while employing many residents in the neighborhood; *and*

WHEREAS, Traditional celebrations like Saint Anthony's Feast, Saint Agrippina's Feast, and the Fisherman's Feast of the Madonna Del Soccorso di Sciacca amplify the rich, proud, and passionate Italian culture each year; *and*

WHEREAS, Italian-American Heritage Day will celebrate the distinguished cultural contributions of Americans within the Italian lineage. This day will honor and recognize the centuries of achievements, successes, and valuable contributions of

Italian immigrants and Italian Americans. It is a time to celebrate Italian heritage, history, and culture; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: The Boston City Council recognizes Saturday, October 1st, 2022, as Italian Heritage Day in the City of Boston.

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