



# New York State Commission for Social Justice

*Order Sons of Italy in America*

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John A. Fratta  
*CSJ Chairman*

Anthony Naccarato  
*State President*

June 17, 2020

Mayor Robert Parisi  
Township of West Orange  
66 Main Street  
West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear Mayor Parisi:

The New York Commission for Social Justice is the anti-defamation arm of the New York Grand Lodge, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. The Commission has, throughout the years, engaged in a wide variety of activities geared toward accomplishing its twin goals of promoting a positive image of Italian Americans and fighting bias, bigotry, and defamation.

There continues to be a false narrative of Christopher Columbus being pushed in many schools around the Country. Many of these schools are using the *History of the United States* written by Howard Zinn. Zinn was a self-proclaimed Maoist with the goal of defeating the United States of America. Zinn has taken portions of the Columbus manuscripts and excluded their full statements. We have been doing much research on these false charges and have four scholars coming out with the truth about Columbus and debunking Howard Zinn.

It surprised us that an Italian American leader, such as you, would come out with statements without researching the full information. Our Italian American community has chosen Christopher Columbus as their hero after many years of discrimination. Do not forget, the largest lynching that took place in America was done to Italian immigrants in New Orleans in 1891, as well as, being considered "enemy aliens" during World War II, although we had the largest of any ethnic group fighting for America.

We would like to recommend to you two books to read: *Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem* written by Elizabeth Delaney and *Debunking Howard Zinn* by Mary Grabar. Both these books are written by non-Italians who were incensed when they began to investigate the allegations made against Columbus.

We are urging you to leave the Columbus statue in your town. We will be happy to meet with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

***Anthony Naccarato***

Anthony Naccarato, President  
Grand Lodge of New York OSDIA

***John A. Fratta***

John A. Fratta, Chairman  
Commission for Social Justice