

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Bill de Blasio  
Mayor, City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Staten Island's Rome Through Richmond Town Celebration

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to invite you to our third annual "Rome Through Richmond Town" celebration of Italian arts, culture and food, on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at noon.

Conceived as a replacement for a stale and poorly attended Staten Island Columbus Day Parade, "Rome Through Richmond Town" has provided a deeper, richer exploration of Italian culture and the Italian-American experience, and has succeeded in bringing a new dimension to the celebration of Christopher Columbus and Italian heritage. Held on the grounds of Historic Richmond Town, the event features cultural programming for kids and adults alike, hours of great entertainment, and delicious food and wine.

Staten Islanders are proud to be known as the congressional district with the highest concentration of Italian-Americans in the United States, and they are attending this unique event in ever-growing numbers.

I know that you are, as well, proud of your Italian-American heritage, and I would be honored if you would break bread with me – and thousands of other Staten Islanders – as we celebrate Columbus Day this year.

I sincerely hope that you will take time out of your busy schedule to join us for a few hours. Please have the appropriate member of your staff contact me for details.

*Grazie e salute!*

Sincerely,

  
James S. Oddo  
President, Borough of Staten Island

