



# New York State Commission for Social Justice

*Order Sons of Italy in America*

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May 1, 2019

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New York NY 10018

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*An organization dedicated to eradicating bias, bigotry and defamation and advancing a positive image of Italian-Americans*

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the ***Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America*** (OSDIA, or “the Order”), the largest and oldest Italian American fraternal group in the United States. I am “Special Counsel” to the ***Commission for Social Justice*** (CSJ), the anti-defamation arm of the Order and have been tasked by John A. Fratta, the CSJ Chairman, to address the tragedy that occurred in New Orleans in 1891, when 11 innocent Italians were savagely lynched in and about the Orleans Parish Prison.

### **Purpose of Letter**

The purpose of the letter is to draw your attention to the outlandish coverage of your paper directly after the lynching, and, more specifically, the outright egregious and highly offensive editorial of March 16, 1891. This is discussed below in detail. I am confident that after you read this presentation letter and attachments you will each agree with this proposition.

The New York Times has never issued an apology or a retraction for their coverage and editorial position. We request that your paper do so now, by printing “retraction” and explanation of apology on your “opinion page” within a reasonable amount of time upon receipt of this letter.

I submitted a “Letter to the Editor” on March 31<sup>st</sup>. It was not published. On April 16<sup>th</sup> I communicated with Diane Brayton, the Executive Vice President and General Counsel of your paper. By way of an email to me from David E. McCraw, the VP and Deputy General Counsel of your paper, I was informed to express our opinion by submission to the general submission address for same ([opinion@nytimes.com](mailto:opinion@nytimes.com)) and by calling a general mailbox for an apology request (1-844-698-6397). These communications are included in **ATTACHMENT 1**.

I chose not to take those directions and am submitting this letter to the body.

### **Endorsements**

This letter, however, is not singularly submitted; rather, this submission is comprised of a coalition of major, national Italian American organizations, local New Orleans Italian American organizations, and other associated groups interested in this matter. I note that given more time, there would have been many more “endorsements.” The list of endorsements and endorsement letters are contained in **ATTACHMENT 2**.

### **Underlying Issues: New Orleans: March, 1891**

On March 14, 1891, an organized mob of thousands stormed into the Orleans Parish Prison and killed eleven of the prisoners, all Italian. Most were beaten to death by clubs, two were hanged (one on a lamppost; another from a tree). By victim count, it was **the largest lynching in American History** [NOTE: “Lynching” is used here as defined by the NAACP. To qualify as a lynching a group of people must act under the pretext of retribution. The intent to right a



*presumed wrong is what separates a lynching from a race riot. Blacks were lynched in far greater numbers than Italians throughout the years, but the single instance of lynching by victim count occurred on this date in New Orleans. See: Vengeance, Violence and Vigilantism: An Exploration of the 1891 Lynching of Eleven Italian Americans in New Orleans, Caitlin Kennedy, Oxford, May, 2018.*

In the late 1800s, there was a general anti-Italian sentiment in our country as a massive wave of immigrants from Italy arrived in this country. At the same time, there were cities such as New Orleans, which enjoyed the influx of men who filled an economic void. Emancipated slaves had moved north and there was a great need for men to work the farms and plantations. With that backdrop, what had played out in 1891 became one of the saddest, and cruelest, times for the United States, leaving a stain on the fabric of Italian American relations, setting back the Italian American community many years.

After New Orleans Police Chief David Hennessy was murdered by a group of men on October 15, 1890 outside his home, there was speculation and innuendo that “the dagoes” killed him. This led to a widespread arrest of hundreds of Italians upon no legal or other evidentiary bases. Nineteen men were ultimately charged with his murder and two trials were set for the group. The first trial resulted in none being found guilty, yet all of the men were remanded back to the Orleans Parish Prison on trumped-up charges.

A series of books, journal articles and reviews have suggested with a degree of substantial certainty that the investigation, arrests, trial and aftermath of the subject criminal proceedings were filled with baseless legal foundations, illegal maneuvers, vengeance, and, ultimately, mob rule. To many in the New Orleans community, it was clear that “justice” had not been delivered and there were some who decided to handle the issues in their own way.

On March 14, 1891—within a short time after the verdict---a mob of thousands was organized by the political and legal elite of the city, including city officials and the Mayor. Ads ran in the papers inviting the public to meet at a designed location and to “*come prepared for action.*” The mob was supplied with weapons and led blocks away from the early morning “meeting site” to the Orleans Parish prison.

The mob hunted down their victims inside the prison and lynched them. The details are contained in the preeminent work, *Vendetta, The True Story of the Largest Lynching in U.S. History*, by Professor Richard Gambino, which book formed the basis for a 1999 movie by the same name. Yes, this terrible ordeal was little known outside the New Orleans vicinity.

On March 15, 1891 *The New York Times* contained a story at page one, entitled, “CHIEF HENNESSY AVENGED.” It detailed the heinous actions of the mob, offering no criticisms of the mob rule or murders. See article: **ATTACHMENT 3.**

On March 16, 1891, *The New York Times* contained an Editorial, reading in part:

*These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigations. Our own rattlesnakes are as good citizens as they...These men of the Mafia killed Chief Hennessy in circumstances of peculiar atrocity...Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to continue its bloody practices.*

See Editorial: Attachment 4

See list of those murdered: Attachment 5.

While the *New York Times* supported the mob rule, not all papers did so. The *Sun*, another New York paper at the time, had an opinion far different from the *Times*.

"[The *Sun*] was highly critical of both the city of New Orleans and its people. It suggested that the city, not the federal government, should be responsible for paying reparations to the family [of the victims]. Furthermore, the *Sun* slammed the citizens of New Orleans, noting other incidents when lynch mobs caused problems in the city and lamented the fact that the same city could potentially be the cause of an international crisis...[and u]nlike the *New York Times* the *Sun* did not [print] any sweeping racial generalizations that faulted all Italian immigrants."

SEE: Vengeance, Violence and Vigilantism, Caitlin Kennedy

All of this rhetoric and anti-Italian sentiment led to local, then national, and then international consequences, including the involvement of the Italian government and the recall of its Embassy in the United States. Italians were shunned just because of their heritage. Many Italians were so uncomfortable in the New Orleans region, they moved to northern cities where there were close friends or families. Those who stayed faced ridicule and discrimination.

A sham of a Grand Jury was convened in New Orleans to investigate the lynching, resulting in no charges and no arrests. No one was ever convicted of the crimes. Despite the horrendous conduct of the New Orleans government and their complicity in these crimes, the City never offered an apology and no one was held accountable. Likewise, the *New York Times* has never retracted its remarks or editorial to date.

The abhorrent story of this tragedy seemed to have fallen through the cracks, as it was hardly discussed, reported on, or brought up as a subject to address. This changed when the topic was included in a CSJ agenda item, where the board quickly and vehemently decided that some action was needed.



## The Mayor's Apology

A few months ago, I was tasked by the ***Order Sons & Daughters of Italy's*** anti-defamation arm, the ***Commission for Social Justice***, to request the current Mayor of New Orleans, LaToya Cantrell, to issue an Official Proclamation of Apology. She not only agreed, Mayor Cantrell herself presented the Proclamation at an April 12<sup>th</sup> ceremony at the **American Italian Cultural Center**, in New Orleans, in front of a crowd of national Italian American leaders, descendants of the victims and a hoard of media. The presentation was covered by local, national and international media outlets.

Mayor Cantrell acknowledged the wrong, recognized the ugly history of this tragedy, and offered an official apology to the Italian American community. She stated that "What happened was wrong. We have a shared responsibility to make our city proud." She suggested that although history could not be changed, it was important to "acknowledge the wrongs so that we can grow in the future." She stated, "No one forced me. I was simply asked." She delivered with courage and conviction.

The Mayor's speech can be viewed here:

[https://www.com/watch?v=HEwKgtqmvw&list=PLOdnlqTYbMMolvLkLdU\\_LxCtPepuOOppi](https://www.com/watch?v=HEwKgtqmvw&list=PLOdnlqTYbMMolvLkLdU_LxCtPepuOOppi)

The transcript of the Mayor's speech: **ATTACHMENT 6**

The official apology and recognition: **ATTACHMENT 7**

I learned a few lessons from the ceremony of April 12<sup>th</sup>:

- (1) The City of New Orleans was still suffering from the cloud of the 1891 event, even some 128 years later. Local historians, retired prosecutors and police enforcement personnel, and other people deeply involved in this great city told stories of the account they learned from their parents, who heard it from *their* parents. It was apparent that time did not heal this wound.
- (2) The issue was not properly or timely addressed. The Italian American groups became complacent in their own success, and didn't want to bring up a sore subject. The "players" were all dead, and the descendants of the victims and those complicit in the mob lynching were present in the city and conducted business as usual.
- (3) The same people mentioned above sensed a great relief from the ceremony. The fact that it was conducted in a positive manner and called for healing meant that it was now time to put this to bed. Prayers were offered from Bishop Cheri, a local New Orleans Diocese priest, who blessed the ceremony and offered words of reconciliation, noting that there were descendants from the victims present in the room.

- (4) It wasn't too late to address the tragedy, only since it was never addressed in a direct fashion before. For the current Mayor to make the address she did, in such a dignified manner and to have offered the apologies of the former administration from 1891 in a formal showing, displayed not only gumption, but wisdom and understanding.

I was not surprised by the media coverage of the ceremony, which included your paper running an AP article, and the following representative list:

- Washington Post
- Local NYC media
- CNN
- BBC
- Local NOLA radio, print and media outlets
- Canadian Broadcast
- French National Radio
- Italian media outlets
- Australian press

My suggestion to your board and editors is to demonstrate the same response.

### **Some Comments**

No one has suggested that the *Times* would ever have printed such vile words today. Your paper is the epitome of the press and is held to high international regard. We have decided as a group that your editorial and executive staff was one of integrity, honesty and fairness, for otherwise, this effort was to be a complete waste of time.

The Italian American community has been under stress lately due to the attack on our day of celebration of our heritage, Columbus Day. Along with years of negative stereotypical media, movies, shows and print degrading our heritage and culture, we realized that we had become complacent in our own successes.

The notion that this 128-year-old tragedy had never been addressed was symbolic of how Italian Americans can so easily be victims of abuse, bias and bigotry. Our collective intent is to ensure that our children and our grandchildren no longer be subject to this.

All of the good people who have signed off on the endorsement letters have been active in their respective communities, and have acted on behalf of other groups in times of need. We have realized that we have neglected to defend our own heritage and ethnicity to the degree and extent that we should.

### **Request**



The *New York Times* recently apologized for an anti-Semitic cartoon that appeared in its international edition. That was the right course. Consider reading Kristin Wong's *New York Times* April 22, 2019 article, "No, You Don't Have to Stop Apologizing," and then read your own editorial from November 13, 2016, where your publisher and executive editor reflected on the then coverage of the Presidential election, noting:

"[W]e aim to rededicate ourselves to the fundamental mission of Times journalism. That is to report America and the world honestly, without fear of favor, striving always to understand and reflect all political perspectives and life experiences in the stories we bring to you. It is also to hold power to account, impartially and unflinchingly. You can rely on The New York Times to bring the same fairness, and same level of scrutiny, the same independence to our coverage..."

The article: [Attachment 8](#)

The editorial: [Attachment 9](#)

On behalf of all of those who have joined me in presenting this letter to you, I humbly request that in light of the nature of your paper's coverage of the 1891 tragedy, the long lingering ramifications and stain that the lynching left on the national Italian American community, and the failure of your paper to retract, address, or offer an apology to the Italian American community, your paper print a retraction with explanation and print an apology for its coverage. I believe that this would be adhering to the principles and integrity of your paper.

As Mayor Cantrell remarked, "*no one forced me to stand up. I was simply asked, and that is all it takes.*" See, [ATTACHMENT 6](#): page 8, lines 12-13.

I do hope that this is the case here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Michael A. Santo

Special Counsel

Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

# **ATTACHMENT 1**





Michael Santo &lt;attysanto@gmail.com&gt;

**LETTER TO EDITOR, NEW YORK TIMES**

1 message

Michael Santo &lt;attysanto@gmail.com&gt;

Sun, Mar 31, 2019 at 6:50 PM

To: MAS Mmm &lt;attysanto@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Mr. Editor:

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, your paper ran an Associated Press article about New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell's progressive and brave position in recognizing and apologizing for one of this country's worst atrocities: the implicit City governmental participation in the lynching of 11 Italian immigrants in New Orleans in 1891. The Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America's Commission for Social Justice appointed me to approach the Mayor's Office several months ago to request an apology. There was no debate. There was no haggling. The Mayor embraced the idea, assigned a liaison, and we set a ceremony date for the presentation of an Official Proclamation of Apology on April 12<sup>th</sup> at a local Italian American Cultural Center.

What your paper did not address was their own despicable account of the underlying trial and subsequent murders. A New York Times Editorial of March 16, 1891 contained the following language:

***These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigations... These men of the Mafia killed Chief Hennessy in circumstances of peculiar atrocity... Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to continue its bloody practices.***

This tragedy has been a longstanding wound for the Italian American community for 128 years. The lynching in 1891 was prompted by the dissatisfaction of a group of powerful New Orleans government officials and businessmen, who felt that justice had not prevailed when a jury had not returned a guilty verdict against a group of Sicilian immigrants for the ambush murder of the City's Police Commission, David Hennessy, on October 15, 1890.

A series of books, journal articles and reviews have suggested with a degree of substantial certainty that the investigation, arrests, trial and aftermath of the subject criminal proceedings were filled with baseless legal foundations, illegal maneuvers, vengeance, and, ultimately, mob rule. At that time, the press routinely published slanted, biased and damning information about Italian immigrants, leaving out the fact that there was a power struggle by the mainstay New Orleans business and political brokers to take back power and control from successful Italian businessmen, especially along the Mississippi River docks.

On March 14, 1891—within hours after the verdict—a mob of thousands was organized by the political and legal elite. That mob was supplied with weapons and led blocks away to ultimately break into the Orleans Parish prison (where the men were illegally held), where the mob hunted down their victims inside the prison and lynched them. The details are contained in the preeminent work, Vendetta, The True Story of the Largest Lynching in U.S. History, by Professor Richard Gambino, which work was the basis of a 1999 movie by the same name.

At that time and today, there was never justification for such evil. Yet, the New York Times opined that despite the verdict "Lynch law" was appropriate. While the City of New Orleans prepares to

embrace the past to move forward, it is time, as well, for the New York Times to recognize that it, too, must offer an apology by printing one on the front page of its paper on April 12, 2019.

Yours Truly,

**Michael A. Santo, Esq.**

**SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA, NEW YORK**





Michael Santo &lt;attysanto@gmail.com&gt;

**LETTER TO NY TIMES COUNSEL**

1 message

**Michael Santo** <attysanto@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 16, 2019 at 1:59 AM

To: braytd@nytimes.com

Bcc: jafratta@gmail.com, kevincaira57@gmail.com

**Subject: LETTER TO NYT COUNSEL, DIANE BRAYTON****Diane Brayton | Executive Vice President, General Counsel& Corporate Secretary**

The New York Times Company 620 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10018

212 556 5995 | braytd@nytimes.com

Diane:

I submit the below proposed OP-ED, not only for publication, but for purposes of submission to you to present to the NY Times Editorial Board, in line with our request for a printed apology on either the front page or editorial page of the NY Times.

As Special Counsel to the Commission for Social Justice (CSJ), the anti-defamation arm of the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA)----the oldest and largest Italian American organization in the United States—I was assigned the similar task in terms of approaching the City of New Orleans (see references in the below submission) and this, all relative to the 1891 lynching of Italians in New Orleans.

I provide some footnotes for your consideration, including:

- Copy of PROCLAMATION from Mayor Cantrell, dated April 12, 2019
- Photo from the event
- List of those murdered
- Partial list of national and international coverage
- YOUTUBE Link to Mayor Cantrell's speech of April 12, 2019

Thank you, Diane. Please let me know if this can get done. We're happy to meet at your office to discuss, if that's appropriate.

Many thanks,  
Mike

Copy:

John Fratta, Chair, NYS CSJ, OSDIA, New York

Kevin Cairra, Chair National CSJ, OSDIA, Washington, D.C.-

**Michael A. Santo, Esq**  
**SPECIAL COUNSEL TO**  
**COMMISSION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**OSDIA**

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#### ITALIAN AMERICAN GROUP REQUESTS APOLOGY FOR 128 YEAR ATTITUDE

When, not if, one makes a mistake, one wants to grab that action or words and bring them back, much like a retraction; however, when the words are printed in a major metropolitan newspaper, it's not so easy...no matter how long ago.

In the late 1800s, there was an anti-Italian sentiment as to the massive wave of immigrants from Italy to this country. At the same time, there were cities such as New Orleans, which enjoyed the influx of men who filled an economic void. Emancipated slaves had moved north and there was a great need for men to work the farms and plantations. With that backdrop, what had played out in 1891 became one of the saddest, and cruelest, times for the United States, leaving a stain on the fabric of Italian American relations, setting back the Italian American community many years.

After New Orleans Police Chief David Hennessy was murdered by a group of men on October 15, 1890 outside his home, there was speculation and innuendo that "the dagoes" killed him. This led to a widespread arrest of hundreds of Italians with no legal or other basis. Nineteen men were ultimately charged with murder and two trials were set for the group. The first trial resulted in none being found guilty, yet all of the men were remanded back to the Orleans Parish Prison. A series of books, journal articles and reviews have suggested with a degree of substantial certainty that the investigation, arrests, trial and aftermath of the subject criminal proceedings were filled with baseless legal foundations, illegal maneuvers, vengeance, and, ultimately, mob rule. It was clear that "justice" had not been delivered and there were some who decided to handle the issues in their own way.

On March 14, 1891—within a short time after the verdict—a mob of thousands was organized by the political and legal elite of the city, including city officials and the Mayor. Ads ran in the papers inviting the public to meet at a designed area and to "*come prepared for action.*" The mob was supplied with weapons and led blocks away from the early morning "meeting site" to the Orleans Parish prison. The mob hunted down their victims inside the prison and lynched them. The details are contained in the preeminent work, *Vendetta, The True Story of the Largest Lynching in U.S. History*, by Professor Richard Gambino, which work was the basis of a 1999 movie by the same name.

On March 15, 1891 *The New York Times* contained a story at page one, entitled, "CHIEF HENNESSY AVENGED." It detailed the heinous actions of the mob, offering no criticisms of the mob rule. On March 16, 1891, *The New York Times* contained an Editorial, reading in part:

***These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigations...These men of the Mafia killed Chief Hennessy in circumstances of peculiar atrocity...Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to continue its bloody practices.***

All of this rhetoric and anti-Italian sentiment led to local, then national, and then international consequences, including the involvement of the Italian government and the recall of its Embassy in the United States. A Grand Jury was convened in New Orleans to investigate the lynching, resulting in no charges and no arrests. No one was ever convicted of the crimes. Despite the horrendous conduct of the New Orleans government and their complicity in these crimes, the City never offered an apology and no one was held accountable.

A few months ago, I was tasked by the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy's anti-defamation arm, the Commission for Social Justice, to request the current Mayor of New Orleans, LaToya Cantrell, for the issuance of an Official Proclamation of Apology. She not only agreed, Mayor Cantrell herself presented the Proclamation at an April 12<sup>th</sup> ceremony at the American Italian Cultural Center, in New Orleans, in front of a jammed crowd of national Italian American leaders, descendants of the victims and a hoard of media. The presentation was covered by local, national and international media outlets.

Mayor Cantrell acknowledged the wrong, recognized the ugly history of this tragedy, and offered an official apology to the Italian American community. She stated that "What happened was wrong. We have a shared responsibility to make our city proud." She suggested that although history could not be changed, it was important to "acknowledge the wrongs so that we can grow in the future." She stated, "No one forced me. I was simply asked." She delivered with courage and conviction.

We simply want the New York Times to do the same thing: acknowledge the hateful wrongs of the paper's editors at that time and print a retraction and an apology, for it will go a long way to heal the open wound of the past, provide a proud movement for a heralded newspaper, and provide a basis to move forward and bond.



**Michael A. Santo**  
**SPECIAL COUNSEL TO**  
**COMMISSION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America, New York & Washington, D.C.**

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**REFERENCES:**

**MAYOR'S SPEECH**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEwK-gtqmw&list=PLOdnlqTYbMMrapLqAbYj6VNwiDJ84Fcdp>

**EVENT PHOTO**

image1.jpeg

Mayor Cantrell presents Proclamation to General Consul Federico Ciattaglia, Italy

**PROCLAMATION**



Language:

PROCLAMATION



**Whereas**, on March 14, 1891, eleven Italian-Americans were murdered by a mob in the City of New Orleans over their alleged involvement in the death of the City's police chief; and  
**Whereas** historical accounts indicate that New Orleans' political leadership was complicit in these crimes; and  
**Whereas** these crimes were committed during a time of rising anti-Italian sentiment; and  
**Whereas** no one has ever been indicted or prosecuted for perpetrating these crimes.  
**Therefore be it resolved** that the City of New Orleans offers its deepest apologizes to the descendants of those victims, to the City's Italian-American community; and  
**Therefore be it further resolved** that the City of New Orleans hereby recognizes the Italian-American community's numerous contributions to the cultural and economic landscape of the City of New Orleans and to the entire country.

## LIST OF THOSE MURDERED

### Victims

### Edit

*The following people were lynched:*

- ▮ Antonio Bagnetto, fruit peddler: Tried and acquitted.
- ▮ James Caruso, stevedore: Not tried.
- ▮ Loreto Comititis, tinsmith: Not tried.
- ▮ Rocco Geraci, stevedore: Not tried.
- ▮ Joseph P. Macheca, fruit importer: Tried and acquitted.
- ▮ Antonio Marchesi, fruit peddler: Tried and acquitted.
- ▮ Pietro Monasterio, cobbler: Mistrial.
- ▮ Emmanuele Polizzi, street vendor: Mistrial.
- ▮ Frank Romero, ward politician: Not tried.
- ▮ Antonio Scaffidi, fruit peddler: Mistrial.
- ▮ Charles Traina, rice plantation laborer: Not tried.

## PARTIAL LIST OF PRESS COVERAGE

[https://www.ilmessaggero.it/mondo/new\\_orleans\\_dopo\\_128\\_anni\\_le\\_scuse\\_della\\_louisiana\\_per\\_il\\_linciaggio\\_di\\_11\\_italiani-4426106.html](https://www.ilmessaggero.it/mondo/new_orleans_dopo_128_anni_le_scuse_della_louisiana_per_il_linciaggio_di_11_italiani-4426106.html) ROME

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-friday-edition-1.5095791/it-s-never-too-late-new-orleans-mayor-apologizes-for-1891-mass-lynching-of-italian-americans-1.5095802> CANADA

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/the-washington-post-s-1891-article-on-new-orleans-lynchings/?noted=3eb3a86d-ff91-49a2-9b5b-2d39026b82aa&questionId=429df10f-0bab-4a2a-adea-59d2913234c7&utm\\_term=.74fd8a9cdef8](https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/the-washington-post-s-1891-article-on-new-orleans-lynchings/?noted=3eb3a86d-ff91-49a2-9b5b-2d39026b82aa&questionId=429df10f-0bab-4a2a-adea-59d2913234c7&utm_term=.74fd8a9cdef8) WASH POST

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<http://www.fox8live.com/2019/04/12/mayor-latoya-cantrell-issue-apology-italian-lynching/>. FOX

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<https://amp.sacbee.com/news/nation-world/article228635364.html> SACRAMENTO CA

<https://abcnews.go.com/amp/US/wireStory/mayor-apologize-1861-lynching-11-italian-americans-62055901> ABC

[https://www.tulsaworld.com/news/usworld/ap/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article\\_2485b366-f311-541d-a35d-a0efdca044cf.html](https://www.tulsaworld.com/news/usworld/ap/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article_2485b366-f311-541d-a35d-a0efdca044cf.html) TULSA

[https://www.valdostadailytimes.com/news/national\\_international/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article\\_d4936b33-b13b-564b-837d-44e9a9de96b2.html](https://www.valdostadailytimes.com/news/national_international/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article_d4936b33-b13b-564b-837d-44e9a9de96b2.html) GEORGIA

<https://www.citynews1130.com/2019/03/30/mayor-to-apologize-for-1861-lynching-of-11-italian-americans/amp/> VANCOUVER

<https://www.ksl.com/article/46521330/mayor-to-apologize-for-1861-lynching-of-11-italian-americans> KSL

[https://www.kulr8.com/news/national/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article\\_3bdaf4d2-1add-5b25-b2e9-3625aa9dfcb3.html](https://www.kulr8.com/news/national/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article_3bdaf4d2-1add-5b25-b2e9-3625aa9dfcb3.html) MONTANA

[https://auburnpub.com/news/national/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article\\_69077628-75b2-5bbe-8b28-297b52bf6384.html](https://auburnpub.com/news/national/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article_69077628-75b2-5bbe-8b28-297b52bf6384.html) AUBURN NY

[https://wcfcourier.com/news/national/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article\\_702c0342-8c51-5655-a264-70978891b404.html](https://wcfcourier.com/news/national/mayor-to-apologize-for-lynching-of-italian-americans/article_702c0342-8c51-5655-a264-70978891b404.html) COURIER IOWA





Michael Santo &lt;attysanto@gmail.com&gt;

---

**New York Times**

5 messages

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**McCraw, David** <mccrad@nytimes.com>  
To: attysanto@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 17, 2019 at 12:13 PM

Mike,

Diane Brayton forwarded your email to me. As you can appreciate, the Legal Department does not get involved in deciding what Op-Eds get published (or other editorial decisions). You should make your submission to this address:  
[opinion@nytimes.com](mailto:opinion@nytimes.com)

Best of luck,

David

David E. McCraw  
Vice President & Deputy General Counsel  
The New York Times Company  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, New York 10018  
Phone: 212-556-4031  
Fax: 212-556-4634

---

**Michael Santo** <attysanto@gmail.com>  
To: "McCraw, David" <mccrad@nytimes.com>

Wed, Apr 17, 2019 at 12:41 PM

Thank you, David.  
As to the apology request, who would address this.

**Michael A. Santo, Esq.**  
**Michael A. Santo, P. C.**  
**3047 Lee Place**  
**Bellmore NY 11710-5035**

Cell: 516.551.5503  
attySANTO@gmail.com  
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*New Jersey*

Of Counsel to:  
SILBERSTEIN AWAD & MIKLOS, P. C.  
600 Old Country Road, 5th Floor  
Fifth Floor  
Garden City NY 11530

ask4sam.net/attorneys/michael-a-santo/

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**David McCraw** <mccrad@nytimes.com>  
To: Michael Santo <attysanto@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 17, 2019 at 12:53 PM

Mike,

The apology request should go here:

*nytnews@nytimes.com or call 1-844-NYT-NEWS (1-844-698-6397).*

David

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Michael Santo** <attysanto@gmail.com>  
To: David McCraw <mccrad@nytimes.com>  
Bcc: jafratta@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 17, 2019 at 1:26 PM

David

As to the Op Ed suggestion, I'll follow your direction. Thank you.

As to the request for a printed apology, the response is not acceptable. I contacted Diane directly for a reason, and not to leave a recorded message on a general comment line.

I expect that you read the full presentation I laid out; if not, I wish you would. This comes on behalf of a number of national Italian American groups who all consider this an issue to be seriously addressed. I'm not getting that impression from your note.

So, as much as I appreciate your time to respond here, I do request that either you or another call me to discuss the matter. I would certainly prefer this alternative.

Many thanks,  
Mike

**Michael A. Santo, Esq.**  
**SPECIAL COUNSEL TO**  
**COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA**  
**Michael A. Santo, P. C.**  
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Fifth Floor  
Garden City NY 11530  
[ask4sam.net/attorneys/michael-a-santo/](http://ask4sam.net/attorneys/michael-a-santo/)

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**McCraw, David** <mccrad@nytimes.com>  
To: Michael Santo <attysanto@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 17, 2019 at 4:40 PM

Mike,

Legal would never play a role in any apology. I'd suggest you contact one of our editors (all the senior ones are listed in the print paper). It would be a waste of your time and ours to discuss your request. You should take it up with the people who would be the deciders.

All the best,

David

David E. McCraw  
Vice President & Deputy General Counsel  
The New York Times Company  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, New York 10018  
Phone: 212-556-4031  
Fax: 212-556-4634

[Quoted text hidden]

## **ATTACHMENT 2**



## **ENDORSEMENT LETTERS**

The main letter is that of the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America's New York State Commission for Social Justice arm, representing the National Order.

Other endorsements included in this ATTACHMENT 2 are as follows [NOTE: Some of the below organizations are coalitions and represent more than one organization; review the letterhead for same]

- 1. ITALIAN SONS & DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA, PITTSBURGH (2): A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**
- 2. CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR ITALIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS: A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**
- 3. COLUMBUS HERITAGE COALITION: A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. The letterhead is unreadable, so the member groups are listed below: The Columbus Heritage Coalition represents approximately 20,000 members and more than 50 member organizations:**

Albanian American Civic League and Foundation  
American Italian Socio-Hispanic Assoc.  
and Culture Committee of the Bronx and Westchester  
Association of Italian American Educators  
Bronx Columbus Day Parade Committee  
Building Trades Council  
Casa Belvedere  
Coalition of Italian American Associations  
Columbia Association of New York, Inc.  
Columbus Alliance of the Bronx and Westchester  
Columbus Citizens Foundation  
Commission for Social Justice, OSDIA  
Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations  
Council of Belmont Organizations  
DEC  
FDNY Columbia Association  
Federation of Italian American Organization of Queens Italian Welfare League  
Federation of Italian American Organizations of Brooklyn FIAME  
Federation of Italian American Organizations, Brooklyn Coccia Foundation  
Federation of Italian- American Societies of Western New York  
Federazione delle Assoc. della Campania USA  
Figli di San Gennaro  
Howard Beach Columbus Day Parade Committee  
IALD & HEF

Italian American Heritage  
 Italian American Labor Council  
 Italian American Museum  
 Italian American One Voice Coalition  
 Italian Heritage and Cultural Committee of New York  
 Italian Heritage and Culture Committee, Inc.  
 Knights of Columbus  
 Lt. Det. Joseph Petrosino Assoc. in America  
 Monte San Giacomo Club  
 Morris Park Community Association  
 National Commission For Social Justice  
 National Council of Columbia Associations Inc.  
 National Council of Columbia Associations, Inc.  
 National Organization of Italian American Women  
 Nutley-Belleville Columbus Parade Committee  
 NYS AFL-CIO  
 NYS Commission for Social Justice  
 NYS Italian American PAC  
 One Voice Italian Welfare League  
 Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
 The Columbia Association of U.S. Customs and Affiliated Federal Agencies Italian  
 Charities of America  
 The Ocean County Columbus Day Parade Committee, Inc.  
 UNICO Foundation  
 UNICO National

4. **NOIAW: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN**
5. **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA ASSOCIATIONS IN CIVIL SERVICE: NATIONAL**
6. **COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION: NEW YORK CITY**
7. **ITALIAN AMERICAN "ONE VOICE" COALITION: NEW JERSEY**
8. **ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY: NEW ORLEANS**
9. **AMERICAN ITALIAN FEDERATION OF THE SOUTHEAST: BATON ROUGE/REGIONAL ORGANIZATION**
10. **AMERICAN ITALIAN RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION: NEW ORLEANS**
11. **IAMLA: LOS ANGELES**
12. **ITALIAN CHARITIES OF AMERICA: NEW YORK CITY**
13. **SICILIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA: NEW YORK CITY**





Italian  
Sons and Daughters  
of America  
*We are Italian America.*

The New York Times  
620 Eighth Ave  
New York, NY 10018

April 23, 2019

Re: An Apology Owed to the Italian American Community for an Editorial of March 16, 1891

Dear New York Times:

This letter is written to express the Italian American community's indignation, not only concerning The Times unwillingness to publish an apology for a hateful and bigoted editorial, but for the arrogance its editorial board is exhibiting by refusing to even acknowledge our communications concerning this issue.

On April 7, 2019 our organization forwarded an email to Mr. James Bennett, Editorial Page Editor, requesting that The New York Times retract its editorial and issue an apology to the Italian American community for the ugly stereotypes and unconscionable anti Italian immigrant rhetoric espoused in its March 16, 1891 editorial, which not only sought to justify, but actually applauded the lynchings. To date The Times has not even extended our community the courtesy of a reply.

The editorial's harm to Italian immigrants throughout the country was immeasurable, as The Times used both its influence and credibility to legitimize hatred toward these immigrants in the public's mind which lasted for decades thereafter. There were several other documented instances of Italian immigrant lynchings thereafter, for which The Times bears a degree of culpability.

It is important to note that in 1892, the year after the lynchings occurred, Italian immigrants throughout the country began celebrating Columbus Day in earnest as a way off attempting to restore a sense of dignity and self-worth to themselves in light of the rampant anti Italian immigrant sentiment that raged throughout the country, in large part due to The Times editorial.

There is no rational explanation that can be advanced for The Times unwillingness to apologize for its egregious editorial. Our community will not allow this issue to rest until The Times does what decency and justice demand, which is to retract the editorial and issue an apology.

Very truly yours,

Basil M. Russo  
National President  
Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America

**Anthony Traficante**

1245 Murry Chase Ln.  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
[ajt1245@comcast.net](mailto:ajt1245@comcast.net)

April 28, 2019

Editor  
The New York Times  
620 Eighth Ave  
New York, NY 10018

Re: An Apology for an Editorial of March 16, 1891

Gentlemen:

I write to remind the New York Times's Editorial Board and Leadership; it is time to admit the profound injustice surrounding the lynching of Italian immigrants in New Orleans, during 1891. But specifically, I, and all Italians find the New York Times' response to this lynching "... sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins," shocking, discriminatory, and derogatory.

Historically, the Italian immigrants in America have been part of a victimized minority. Your article at the time not only supported but added to the prevailing anti-Italian sentiment in the United States which had been building during three decades of massive Italian immigration. This anti-Italian sentiment incited the murder of 12 innocent Italian immigrants, of March 16, 1891, which your Editorial group at the time supported. The NYT Editorial, no doubt, helped fuel that anti-Italian sentiment.

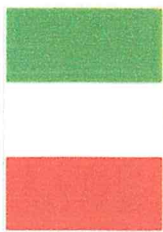
We understand that the fault does not lie with any of the current Editorial staff, and we do not lay blame on such. And in retrospect, apologies for this historical injustice may seem inappropriate at this time. But not so. An apology would help put to rest the magnitude of hurt caused to all Italians. Your paper often reporting on such, appeared to support instances of apologies offered by political and others against victimized minorities. So why not in this case?

As an American of Italian immigrants, and for all Italian-Americans, I ask that you acknowledge an admission of injustice, that occurred against innocent Italian immigrants in 1891. Further, that an apology, to all Italians, is warranted for the hurtful, derogatory and discriminatory words of the 1891 New York Times Editorial, in question.

Respectfully submitted:

Tony Traficante,  
Honorary National President  
Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America





**CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR  
ITALIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS, INC.**  
140 Riverside Blvd #2602, New York, NY 10069

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Sons of Italy Foundation  
The Italian Cultural Foundation at Casa Belvedere  
Tiro e Segno  
Tuscan Association of New York, Inc.  
U N ICO National  
UNICO Foundation  
Westchester Italian Cultural Center

Request for an Apology Concerning an Editorial Relating to the New  
Orleans Lynchings,  
Request for a Meeting

Dear Mr. James Bennet,

We are urging a public apology for an egregious and highly  
offensive editorial published by the New York Times on March 16,  
1891 in response the New Orleans lynching of eleven Italian American  
immigrants.

The mayor of New Orleans will be issuing a public proclamation of  
apology on the city's behalf on April 12th, and it appears now is the  
appropriate time for The NYTimes as well to clear the air with the Italian  
American community.

Mr. Russo and I are also requesting the opportunity for the leadership of  
our most important organizations to meet with members of your editorial  
staff, hopefully on Wednesday or Thursday of this week. The Italian  
American community has never had an opportunity to meet with and  
establish any meaningful lines of communication with the editorial staff of  
The New York Times.

All of our national leaders are in New York City this week to attend a NIAF  
banquet, so this would be opportune time for our community's leadership  
to stop in and explain in greater detail our position on the Columbus issue,  
as well as the issue at hand. Your courtesy in this matter would be greatly  
appreciated. Basil Russo can be reached at (440) 452-6443, and I can be  
reached at 914-393-4142.

Sincerely,

Aileen R. Sirey, Ph.D.  
President / Chair

# COLUMBUS HERITAGE COALITION

April 11, 2019

Mr. Arthur Gregg Sulzberger  
Publisher  
The New York Times  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10118

Dear Mr. Sulzberger:

On behalf of the 40 member organizations of the Columbus Heritage Coalition, I would like to request a meeting with you to discuss a *New York Times* editorial, published in 1891, which avidly endorsed the lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans. As you might be aware, the City of New Orleans will issue an official apology for this heinous act on April 12, 2019.

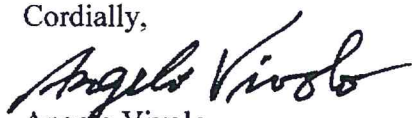
Many of our member groups feel a similar apology from the *Times* is in order, even though more than a century has lapsed. We are united in our belief that such a public apology would provide a much-needed history lesson for all Americans.

As I'm sure you're aware, Italian Americans were the immigrants of those times and like many immigrants of today were chastised for no reason other than their ethnicity. A public admission of past prejudice and inaccuracy on this event would be a significant step in educating your readers about the violence and degradation faced by so many Italian immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s – and would help dispel discriminatory stereotypes that sadly continue to this day.

I hope that you can grant me and a couple of other community leaders and educators some time to discuss this further.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

  
Angelo Vivolo  
President

599 Lexington Avenue | 36<sup>th</sup> Floor | New York, NY 10022

413-438-2459

columbusheritagecoalition@gmail.com

www.columbusheritagecoalition.com

Italian Heritage and Cultural Council of New York

UNICO National

Unica Bergamo

The Ocean County Columbus Day Parade Committee, Inc.

National Council of Columbia Associations, Inc.

EDNY Columbia Association

Coalition of Italian American Associations

Federation of Italian American Organizations of Queens

Italian Welfare League

Fight It Say Gonnara

Council of Belmont Organizations

Columbia Association of NY, Inc.

Brooklyn Columbus Day Parade Committee

NYS Commission for Social Justice

UNICO Foundation

DEC

American Italian Society, Hispanic Society

National Council of Columbus Association, Inc.

Building Trades Council

Italian American Labor Council

Italian American Heritage and Culture  
Committee of the Bronx and Westchester

Monte San Giacomo Club

NYS Italian American PAC

La Ditta, Joseph P. Tomasi Assoc. In America

Conference of Presidents of Major Italian  
American Organizations

Columbus Alliance of the Bronx and Westchester

Nitkus-Bellville Columbus Parade Committee

One Voice

Italian Welfare League

Federation of Italian American  
Organizations of Brooklyn

FIANZ

Italian Heritage and Culture Committee, Inc.

Federazione Italian American Organizzazioni Brooklyn

Civic Foundation

Italian American Museum

Manhattan Community Association

NYS AFL-CIO

Albany American Civic League and Foundation

National Commission for Social Justice

Sons of Italy

Provincia Basilica Columbus Day Parade Committee

Italian American One Voice Council

UMD & ILEP

Association of Italian American Educators

The Columbus Association of U.S. Customs and Affiliated Federal Agencies

Italian Churches of America

Knights of Columbus

National Organization of Italian American Women

Federazione of Italian American Societies of Western NY

Columbus Citizens Foundation

Federazione delle Assoc. della Campania USA





25 WEST 43RD STREET • SUITE 1005 • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036  
T: 212-642-2003 F: 212-642-2006 • NOIAW@NOIAW.ORG • WWW.NOIAW.ORG

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN

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\*Founding member

*NOIAW is an independent,  
not-for-profit, non-partisan  
organization legally incorporated  
in New York State. Contributions  
are tax deductible.*

April 25, 2019

The New York Times  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

Re: New York Times Editorial of March 16, 1891

Dear New York Times:

The National Organization of Italian American Women (NOIAW) is the only national organization for women of Italian heritage and a member organization of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations.

NOIAW is joining the other organizations in the Italian American community requesting that the New York Times retract its editorial and issue an apology for the negative stereotypes and anti-Italian immigrant sentiment expressed in the March 16, 1891 editorial.

We do not understand The Times' refusal to apologize for this offensive and unconscionable editorial, which by any standard would not be tolerated today and should not have denigrated and defamed Italian immigrants in 1891.

We urge the Editorial Board to retract the editorial and issue an apology immediately.

Sincerely,

Maria Tamburri  
Chair, National Board





*The National Council of Columbia Associations In Civil  
Service, Inc  
P.O. Box 310-495, Brooklyn, NY 11231*

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The New York Times  
620 Eighth Ave  
New York, NY 10018  
Re: Anti Italian / Anti-Immigrant Editorial of March 16, 1891

Dear New York Times:

April 26, 2019

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\*Deceased

We learn in our schools that there is nothing more powerful then the first amendment. It's freedom allows the New York Times, to write for and on behalf of the government and its freedom allows it to write For on behalf of the people and about the government, the people and the news.

We celebrate that right and quite frankly embrace it and need it to keep society honest and knowledgeable. However, the credibility of any media out protected under the first amendment requires it to be credible and honest.

A New York Times editorial on March 16, 1891 not only sought to justify, but actually applauded lynching's in New Orleans. In 1891, it may have been acceptable to speak in a derogatory manner about races of people, though I find it difficult to find any such statements when referring to any community or race in the history of the New York Times, our hometown paper. I have read stories of racism in the NYT about others, calling for jailtime arrest and incarceration of others using the tone the NYT used against Sicilians in 1891. I've read articles calling for apologies to other ethnic communities as far back as the 1800s, by government and private industry. Yet, the New York times stands behinds the derogatory statement when the 11 innocent Italians are Lynched by a group of people with the assistance of New Orleans Government. as The Times used both its influence and credibility to legitimize hatred toward these immigrants in the public's mind which lasted for decades thereafter. There were several other documented instances of Italian immigrant lynchings thereafter, for which The Times bears a degree of culpability.

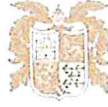
It is important to note that in 1892, the year after the lynchings occurred, Italian immigrants throughout the country began celebrating Columbus Day in earnest as a way off attempting to restore a sense of dignity and self-worth to themselves in light of the rampant anti Italian immigrant sentiment that raged throughout the country.

While the First Amendment gives the power to the press, we would hope that the press would also recognize the responsibility that comes with that power. 121 years after the horrendous act of a lynching, and the medias endorsement of it. The City of New Orleans has loudly apologized for the part it played in the lynching we are asking the you to recognize your endorsement was insensitive to say the least. We are asking that you embrace those the values we are attempting to get for all immigrants today. We are asking you to accept and teach that racism against any group is unethical, immoral and apologize for the position the NYT took in 1891. We are asking that you not only accept the power the people gave you but you also accept the responsibility that foes with that power.

Should you have any questions please contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss this in detail. I can be reached at 917 670 3336.

Respectfully,

  
Joseph A. Guagliardo, President



## COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION

April 29, 2019

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The New York Times  
620 Eight Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

Re: March 16, 1891 Edition of the New York Times

Dear New York Times:

On behalf of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, I urge the Editorial Board to issue a retraction for their support of mob rule and the public calumny of Italian-Americans as expressed in their editorial piece from 1891 regarding the mass lynching of Italian Americans in New Orleans.

The Columbus Citizens Foundation and its members support the sentiments and agree with the request of Basil Russo, Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America expressed in his e-mail to The New York Times Editorial Board regarding the reporting of this event.

On March 14, 1891, eleven Italian immigrants were hung, shot and clubbed to death outside the New Orleans parish prison. This horrific event – following a lawful trial in which none of the murdered men were found guilty – is believed to be the largest recorded mass lynching in American history.

Perhaps even more chilling than the mass lynching, was the media of the day's indifference to the murder of eleven men. The most egregious example came from a publication that so many of us think of as the paper of record, *The New York Times*. **When covering the mass lynching, the *Times* editorial board wrote: "...the lawless passions... of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigations... Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue."**

On April 12, 2019, the City of New Orleans finally righted this wrong, and Mayor LaToya Cantrell apologized for the mass-lynching. It is now high time that your paper acknowledge its role in this hateful act. The Columbus Citizens Foundation joins Italian-American organizations and communities across the nation in awaiting your apology

This letter confirms that we are aware and endorse the efforts of Michael Santo, Esq. regarding the issue detailed herein.

Respectfully yours,

Marian U Pardo, President

*Eight East 69<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10021*

*Telephone: (212) 249-9923 Facsimile: (212) 737-4413 Web: [www.columbuscitizensfd.org](http://www.columbuscitizensfd.org)*





# The Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition, Inc.

PO Box 2333, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003  
844-Una-Voce (862-8623) info@iaovc.org www.iaovc.org

The New York Times  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

April 18, 2019

RE: **March 16, 1891 Edition of the New York Times**

Dear New York Times:

On April 12, 2019, the City of New Orleans finally righted a wrong.

On behalf of the City of New Orleans, Mayor LaToya Cantrell apologized for the mass lynching of innocent Italian Americans falsely accused and then viciously preyed upon by a blood-thirsty mob which wrongly blamed them for the killing of a New Orleans Police Officer.

This largest lynching ever to occur in the USA was on March 14, 1891.

Two days later your newspaper compounded this heinous incident with a disgraceful, discriminatory, disgusting and denigrating endorsement of the murder of these eleven innocent Italian Americans:

*"These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigations...These men of the Mafia killed Chief Hennessy in circumstances of peculiar atrocity...Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to continue its bloody practices."*

**—The New York Times Editorial Board (March 16, 1891)**

The City of New Orleans has apologized.

It is now time for the New York Times to apologize for the horrible, hate-filled ink it printed in its pages.

The Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition, on behalf of its individual members and organization members across the country, awaits your apology.

By the way, both my parents are from Sicily.

This letter confirms we are aware and endorse the efforts of Michael Santo, Esq. regarding the issue detailed herein.

Very truly yours,

Andre' DiMino  
Communications Director  
Executive Board Member



# Italian American St. Joseph Society



*"Pride in Our Heritage"*

April 23, 2019

The New York Times  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

Re: March 16, 1891 Edition of the New York Times

Dear New York Times:

The killing of New Orleans Police Chief David Hennessy was a heinous crime, and unfortunately the true perpetrators were never prosecuted. Instead, eleven Italian American immigrants were arrested, tried and acquitted, as well as some ending in mistrials. The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law." This protection was afforded to all on March 13, 1891.

For nearly 130 years, the memory of the March 1891 attack has weighed heavily on members of the Italian American Community, and the Italian American community of New Orleans feels it is time for closure and to move forward in a positive fashion. In order to accomplish this rightful task, on behalf of the Italian American St. Joseph Society of New Orleans, I am respectfully requesting an offer of apology by the New York Times for the comments made by your Editorial Board on March 16, 1891.

The Italian American St. Joseph Society feels that we are all God's children and anti-immigrant of any nationality has no place in this country or the world alike, and we firmly stand behind the efforts of Michael Santo and the petitioning of this apology by the Commission of Social Justice, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

With warmest regards,

Peter Gilberti  
President



## American-Italian Federation of the Southeast

<http://aifed.org>

April 25, 2019

The New York Times  
620 Eighth Ave  
New York, NY 10018

Re: An Apology Owed to the Italian American Community for an Editorial of March 16, 1891

Dear New York Times:

This letter is written to express the Italian American community's indignation, not only concerning The Times unwillingness to publish an apology for a hateful and bigoted editorial, but for the arrogance its editorial board is exhibiting by refusing to even acknowledge our communications concerning this issue.

On April 7, 2019 the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America forwarded an email to Mr. James Bennett, Editorial Page Editor, requesting that The New York Times retract its editorial and issue an apology to the Italian American community for the ugly stereotypes and unconscionable anti Italian immigrant rhetoric espoused in its March 16, 1891 editorial, which not only sought to justify, but actually applauded the lynchings. To date The Times has not even extended our community the courtesy of a reply.

The editorial's harm to Italian immigrants throughout the country was immeasurable, as The Times used both its influence and credibility to legitimize hatred toward these immigrants in the public's mind which lasted for decades thereafter. There were several other documented instances of Italian immigrant lynchings thereafter, for which The Times bears a degree of culpability.

It is important to note that in 1892, the year after the lynchings occurred, Italian immigrants throughout the country began celebrating Columbus Day in earnest as a way off attempting to restore a sense of dignity and self-worth to themselves in light of the rampant anti Italian immigrant sentiment that raged throughout the country, in large part due to The Times editorial.

There is no rational explanation that can be advanced for The Times unwillingness to apologize for its egregious editorial. Our community will not allow this issue to rest until The Times does what decency and justice demand, which is to retract the editorial and issue an apology.

Very truly yours,

*Victor P Musso*

Victor P Musso, President  
American Italian Federation of the Southeast  
PO Box 83332  
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-3332

Organized 1973



## American Italian Renaissance Foundation

537 South Peters Street New Orleans, LA 70130

P: (504) 522-7294

[www.americanitalianculturalcenter.com](http://www.americanitalianculturalcenter.com)

April 25, 2019

The New York Times  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

Reference: March 16, 1891 Edition of The New York Times

Dear New York Times,

On April 12, 2019, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell issued a proclamation on behalf of the City of New Orleans, apologizing to the Italians and Italian American Communities, for the city's complicit behavior relative to the lynching of 11 Italians in March of 1891. This apology has begun the process of closure for this unfortunate incident.

On behalf of myself and many other Italian Americans in New Orleans and beyond. I believe an apology from The New York Times, for the editorial published on March 16, 1891, endorsing this illegal incident, would be fair and just, and would help us bring this event to a close.

Thank you for your time.

  
Frank Maselli

Honorary consulate of Italy





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MARIANNA GATTO

The New York Times  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

April 25, 2019

**Re: Request for Retraction and Apology for the March 16, 1891 Editorial**

Dear *New York Times*:

On behalf of the Italian American Museum of Los Angeles, which is located in the city that is home to the nation's fifth-largest Italian American population, I write this letter as a formal request for the *New York Times* to offer an apology for the hateful and bigoted editorial it published on March 16, 1891, following the lynching of eleven Italian Americans in New Orleans.

The opinions expressed by the *New York Times* have no place in respectable journalism.

The *Times* praised the lawless actions of the murderers who hunted down, shot, and hanged eleven men who had been tried and acquitted of a crime. The paper's endorsement of the heinous act normalized and served as a catalyst for similar acts of brutality committed against Italian Americans, acts that would also go unpunished. In fact, upwards of forty percent of the non-African American victims of lynching were Italian Americans, who your paper often characterized as members of an "inferior" race.

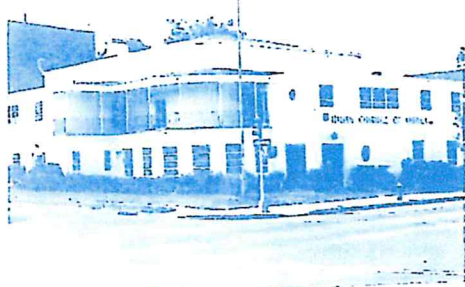
As one of the most prominent news outlets in the nation, the *New York Times* coverage of the lynching can be credited for popularizing the word "Mafia" in the United States. Following the 1891 lynching, the *Times* frequently attributed crimes allegedly committed by Italian Americans, including minor infractions, as acts of the "Mafia." The motion picture industry would soon follow suit and exploit this new-found fascination with the mafia myth, thereby creating a trope that endures today and continues to smear the image of Italian Americans as an ethnic group.

As a subscriber of the *Times*, I am disheartened that the newspaper has not so much as acknowledged the requests of Italian American organizations and attorney Michael Santo surrounding this issue.

The opinions that the *Times* published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries reflect the anti-Italian, xenophobic, and nativist sentiments the paper espoused then. How will the *New York Times* address its hateful history today, in the twenty-first century? We urge the *Times* to seize this opportunity to be on the right side of history by retracting the editorial and issuing an apology.

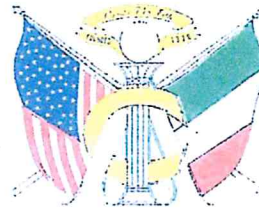
Kindest regards,

Marianna Gatto  
Executive Director and Historian



## Italian Charities of America, Inc.

83-20 QUEENS BLVD. • ELMHURST, N.Y. 11373 • (718) 478-3100 • FAX (718) 478-2665



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The New York Times  
620 Eight Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

April 29, 2019

RE: March 16, 1891 Edition of the New York Times

Dear New York Times,

On April 12, 2019 I was able to represent all the board members and members of Italian Charities of America at the Official Proclamation of Apology in New Orleans given by Mayor LaToya Cantrell. This long over-due apology was a historical event that was well attended by many Italian American organizations and individuals along with descendants of the victims of the heinous crimes that occurred on March 14, 1891. That date marks the largest mass lynching that has occurred in the United States as 11 innocent Italians were lynched in New Orleans.

This letter is to endorse the efforts of Michael A. Santo, Esq. regarding petitioning The New York Times to officially apologize for the March 16, 1891 editorial that was written vilifying Sicilians, in particular. Italian immigrant history and experience here in America highlights the discrimination they endured, their triumphs and the fight for equality in America as well as in the workplace. This must not be forgotten as immigrants today in America are still facing both negative issues and positive advances in society. History teaches us valuable lessons, the opportunity to celebrate and give recognition and the importance to not digress on the basis of freedom and rights in this country. In summary, Italian Charities of America along with Michael A. Santo is asking The New York Times to recognize its wrongs and officially apologize to the Italian American community.

Sincerely,

Domenic Giampino  
President  
Italian Charities of America, Inc.  
italiancharitiesofamerica@gmail.com

Italian Charities of America is a 501c3 Not-for-Profit Organization that has been committed to serving the Italian American and local community since 1936. We offer both Italian American and community programs and services. Our work is made possible with the generous support and funding we receive.





## Sicilian Cultural Institute of America INC.

81-16 Dongan Avenue  
Elmhurst, NY 11373  
[Francesca.GRoman@gmail.com](mailto:Francesca.GRoman@gmail.com)  
347-278-5002

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April 29, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to express the suffering caused by an article written 128 year ago by *The New York Times* on the lynching of 11 Sicilian and Italian immigrants in New Orleans. This letter is also written to urge an apology for this discriminatory, and derogatory article. The Italian American community will continue to fight tirelessly until an apology is issued.

After New Orleans Police Chief David Hennessy was murdered, Italian and Sicilian immigrants in New Orleans were targeted, and hundreds were arrested. In all, 19 were tried for the murder of David Hennessy and were all acquitted. On March 14, 1891, just a day after the acquittal of Italian immigrants, a mob of thousands gathered outside the prison and demanded blood. In the heat of nativism and anti-immigration sentiment in the U.S., the angry mob lynched 11 out of the 19 acquitted Sicilian and Italian defendants, 8 were able to escape the violent crowd. **This tragic incident remains the largest single mass lynching in U.S. History and 128 years later the hearts of many Italian Americans are still heavy for the 11 innocent Sicilian and Italian immigrants that were murdered.**

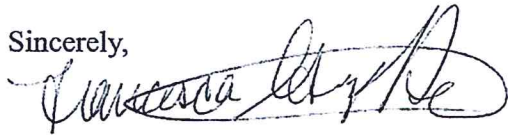
None of the members of the New Orleans mob were ever prosecuted by the city or state. After the lynchings, *The New York Times* published an editorial praising the actions of the New Orleans mob towards Italians, and stating "These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigations...These men of the Mafia killed chief Hennessy in circumstances of peculiar atrocity...Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to continue its bloody practices." Aside from the immense suffering caused by the injustice exhibited by the city of



New Orleans, this editorial by *The New York Times* worsened this suffering and was a source of antagonism towards Italian Americans.

On April 12, 2019, New Orleans Mayor Cantrell issued an Official Proclamation of Apology to the Italian American community for this tragic incident in 1891. At this time, the Italian American community is still waiting for an apology from *The New York Times*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francesca Giampino Roman', written over a horizontal line.

Francesca Giampino Roman

Director

Sicilian Cultural Institute of America INC.

## **ATTACHMENT 3**



AN UPRISING OF INDIGNANT CITIZENS  
IN NEW-ORLEANS — THE PRISON  
DOORS FORCED AND THE ITALIAN  
MURDERERS SHOT DOWN.

ALL good citizens are invited to attend a mass meeting on Saturday, March 14, at 10 o'clock A. M. at the Lyceum, to take action on the failure of the judges in the Hennesey case. Come prepared for action.

John C. Wickliffe,	Dixiean Brass,
B. P. Glover,	William H. Merwin,
W. H. C. Smith,	W. H. C. Smith,
C. E. Rogers,	Samuel H. Davis,
C. E. Rogers,	C. E. Rogers,
Raymond Hays,	H. L. Forster,
L. E. O'Connell,	T. D. Malher,
John B. H. Brown, Jr.,	W. H. C. Smith,
William B. Lewis,	Kimble Dupre,
Seppel, Jr.,	W. H. C. Smith,
Harry M. Hulett,	Charles J. Rottlett,
Lee McMillan,	T. D. Barton,
Seppel, Jr.,	C. E. Rogers,
F. J. Piquet,	J. Moore Willis,
B. H. C. Smith,	W. H. C. Smith,
Thomas Heery,	Hugh W. Brown,
James Lee McLean,	C. Harrison Parry,
Paul C. Smith,	W. H. C. Smith,
T. D. Winton,	J. C. Avey,
Franklin,	W. H. C. Smith,
J. O. Fowler,	C. E. Walcher,
James Chaffin,	W. H. C. Smith,
W. H. C. Smith,	W. H. C. Smith,
H. B. Ordon,	W. H. C. Smith,
Ulan, Jr.,	W. H. C. Smith,
A. Baldwin, Jr.,	George Degeere,
A. R. Blackman,	R. H. Hornbeck,
John W. Brown,	W. H. C. Smith,
William T. Pierce,	E. K. Pierson,
W. H. C. Smith,	W. H. C. Smith,
W. B. Parkerson,	E. T. Leche,

The verdict of the jury in the Hennessy case had startled and angered everybody. The statements of the jury bore out the suspicion that the members had been purchased. Consequently, at 10 o'clock there was a large crowd at Clay Statue on Canal Street. Mr. Parkerson appeared with a number of gentlemen "prepared for action." There was a crowd of young and old men, black and white, but mostly of the best element. Speeches were made by Messrs. Parkerson, Denmore, and Wickliffe.

Shortly before 10 o'clock Mr. Parkerson appeared at the base of the monument. The crowd quickly swarmed around him. He requested them to fall into line. At their head he marched around the monument three times, and ascending the pedestal he turned and made the following address:

[illegible][illegible]

Mr. J. C. Wyckliffe followed in the same denunciatory manner, saying among other things that self-preservation is the first law of nature, and that the time had now come for the citizens of New Orleans to protect themselves.

"If such action as the acquittal of these assassins is to be further tolerated, nothing is done to forcibly portray the disapproval of the public of this infamous verdict, not one man can expect to carry his life safe in the face of the organized assassination that so powerfully exists in our midst, as we openly set law and order aside. We now meet in Lafayette Square to demand that justice be the foot of Henry Clay's statue to act. Let us therefore fellow citizens. Fall in under the leadership of W. & Parkinson, James D. Houston will be your Sergeant, Lieutenant, and I will be your Captain. Let us march."

Arms had been provided at Royal and Bienville for about fifty men, and the members of the committee who had called the assemblage went there, secured pistols and shotguns, and then the crowd marched on the Parish Prison.

The starting of the crowd had an electric effect on the city. Soon the streets were alive with people running from all directions and joining the main body, which moved sullenly down Rampart Street to the jail near Congress Square. Doors and windows were thrown open and men, women, and children crowded on the galleries to encourage those who were taking part and to witness the scene.

When the main crowd from Canal Street reached the prison a dense throng had already collected there, all eager to take a hand in whatever might happen. When the vanguard of armed citizens reached the jail, which is many squares from Canal Street, that grim old building was surrounded on all sides.

Sheriff Wlere, when he heard that a movement was on foot to take the prisoners, armed his deputies and then started on a hunt for Mayor Shakespeare. The Italian Consul and Attorney General Rogers joined in the pursuit but, his Honor does not reach his office until noon, and he was not to be found at

any of his regular haunts. The Governor had not heard of the uprising and had no time to act and the police force was too small to offer much resistance to the army of avengers. Superintendent Gaster had ordered an extra detail of officers to be sent to the jail and the small crowd kept the sidewalks around the old building clear until the great multitude swelling all the time like a mighty roaring stream, surged around the door and crowded the little band of bluecoats away.

Capt. Lem Davis was on guard at the main entrance with a scant force of deputies. They were swept away like chaff before the wind, and in an instant the little ante-room leading into the prison was jammed with eager, excited men.

Meanwhile the prisoners were stricken with terror, for they could hear distinctly the shouts of many without, madly demanding their blood. Innocent and guilty alike were frightened out of their senses, and the crowd was charged with crimes other than those committed by the murder of the Chief also shared in the general demoralization. Some of the braver among the representatives of the Mafia decided to die fighting for their country, but they were not allowed to go out to defend themselves, and when they could not find these they sought hiding places. The deputies, thinking to deceive the crowd by a ruse, transferred the nineteen men to the female department, and there the miserable Sicilians were crowded together. The women when the doors would yield to the angry throng on the outside.

Capt. Davis refused the request to open the prison, and the crowd began the work of battering in the doors. Around on Orleans Street there was a heavy wooden door, which had been closed and bolted and was the last barrier of the attacking whites. This the crowd selected as their best chance of getting in. Neighboring stores readily supplied axes and battering rams and bludgeons. The door was battered open. It did not prove a difficult task to the determined throng. Soon there was a great shout and a rush into the prison. Armed citizens were pouring through the main opening, while a mighty shout went up from 10,000 throats. There was more resistance for a moment, but the mob was too strong to overcome with the huge billet of wood which a stout man carried. Then the turnkey was over-

[illegible]

back of the head, and his body pitched forward and lay immovable on the stone pavement.

Romero fell to his knees, with his face in his hands. He is in the same position now.

Monastero and James Curuso fell together under the fire of half a dozen guns, the leader pellets entering their bodies and heads, and the others striking from the waist.

The executioners did their work well, and beneath the continuing fire Comotex and Trabinio, two of the men who had not been tried, but who were charged jointly with the others, fell together. Their bodies were literally riddled with buckshot, and they were dead almost before the fusillade was over.

When the group of prisoners was discovered on the gallery, Machos, Scofield, and old man

Marchesi separated from the other six and ran up stairs. Thither half a dozen men followed them, and as the terror-stricken assassins ran into cells they were slain. Jo Maebach, who was charged with being the arch-conspirator, was a short, fat man, and was summarily dealt with. He had his back turned when a shot struck him immediately behind the ear, and his death was instantaneous. There was no blood from the wound, and when the body was found the ear was swollen so as to hide the wound, which the Coroner had great difficulty in locating.

Scoffed, one of the most villainous of the assassins, dropped like a log when a bullet hit him in the eye. Old man Marchosi was the only one who was not killed outright. He was struck in the top of the head while he stood beside Maebeca, and though he was mortally wounded he lingered all the evening before dying.

Police, the crazy man, was locked up in a cell up stairs. The doors were hung open and one of the strongest, taking the man inside, through the back door, killed our guide and ordered the others to satisfy the people on the outside, and ordered crazy to know what was going on within. He was dragged down the stairs and through the doorway by which the crowd had entered. A rope was provided and tied around his neck and the people pulled him up to the crowd on stairs. When he was dead, a score of men took aim and poured a volley shot into him, and for several hours the body was left dangling in the air.

Bagnetto was caught in the first rush up stairs and the first volley of bullets pierced his brain. He was hurled back down the stairs. The other men went through the main entrance to the prison and from the flub of a tree his body was suspended, although life was already gone. The crowd took to the streets. Mayor John H. Parkerson addressed the crowd, and asked them to disperse. This they consented to do with a ringing shout, but first the crowd rushed for the entrance to the prison. One man bodily supported him on their shoulders while they marched up the street. The avengers came back in a body to the Clay statue and then dispersed. The crowd came from all directions to the neighborhood of the tragedy, while the streets in front of the newspaper offices were blocked with people anxious to see the scene.

W. S. Parkerson, who was the Captain of the mob, was the political leader of the Democracy of 1888, and is one of the leading lawyers of the city. John C. Johnson, who was at the announced First Lieutenant, and the Independent political leader. John C. Wickliffe, the Second Lieutenant, is one of the editors of the *New York Herald*. The mob of the West Point. The mob's work was done quickly and without unnecessary violence. No one was injured but the men against whom there was proof of complicity in the riot. The mob was composed of Police, and men who are known to be active agents of the Mafia. The shotguns and ropes of the mob have expelled eleven men. Publication of the names of the mob members is a crime. The mob's action has put them to death. The city is unanimous in upholding the action.

Coroner Lemminger spent the day at the prison. The first inquest was on the body of Joe Alaska, the renegade leader of the party who was stretched out on the gallery of condemned cells on the third floor. He looked perfectly natural, the fatal wound being just below and behind the left ear. He was the only one upon whom much money was found, he having over a hundred dollars in his pocket. So-called, the man in the oilcloth coat, who stood at the corner of Basin and Girod and fired the last shot at the Chief, was also shot through

The strain, moreover, the old bald-headed man identified as the party who jumped into the street and fired two volleys into the tottering body of Hennessy, also had a bullet in the brain. He evidently grasped at one of the guns with his left hand, and several of his fingers were shot away. Although unconscious, he did not die until evening, being the only one to escape immediate death.

As soon as the approach of the mob was

known, the Italians were released from the rooms where they were confined. They scattered in different directions. Mascheca and those just mentioned were terror-stricken, and ran from one corridor to the other without getting out of the way. The crowd found them on the gallery of the condemned cells, and they were shot from the yard and from the gallery entrance. The statement that Mascheca had

outside the prison, where they were hanged from the limbs of the nearest trees on the neutral ground. With a gun in his hand, Bagnetto asked who killed the Chief, and said he did not know. They were his last words. The police cut the bodies down and carried them into the Fourth Precinct Police station.

A part of the Italians, as soon as they were told to hide, got over into the women's side of the prison. The majority got into a cell on the lower floor, from which they were driven out and shot down in a body.

[illegible]

Two men who concealed themselves effectively and have not yet been seen are Charlie Matranga, who was supposed to be a fellow chieftain with Machuca in the murderous plot, but against whom no evidence was obtained, and Charles Paterno, a brother of the ex-Alameda man, against whom there was also no evidence. The crowd did not want them, anyhow.

ing a bitter harvest-to-day. Walker, Liveland, a clerk in the Southern Pacific Railroad, was discharged, as his fellow-clerks refused to work with him. J. M. Sellman, the foreman, was placed with the jewelry store, and the day. The brother dissolved the partnership. The clubs and Exchanges of which he was a member expelled him, and he sought to leave town this afternoon. A mob captured him on the way to the station, but he was rescued by the police, and was accompanied by his friends to the New Britain, published by C. C. Smith, edited by Wickliffe, foreshadowed the result in a double-headed editorial, of which the following

"The time to call a halt has arrived. The individual resigns to organized justice his natural right to protect himself. Organized justice has failed to discharge its functions. Human law is unable to hold at bay or even to punish the midnight murderer. There is nothing left save a resort to that law

God's self-preservation.

"If you are all humans, you are brothers. You face life with the question whether your city shall be ruled by orderly government or by organized savagism. If you are not governed by laws made by yourselves, or by the edicts of God, you will be governed by the law of the jungle. At night, it will be determined whether you are to enjoy the security of orderly citizens of a free republic, or if you are to become the prey of the wild beasts of savagism."

The Chief of Police, the executive head of law enforcement, has fallen before the vengeance of a band of criminals. For four months you have patiently waited for the day when the law would take its course through the law to punish, and today the officers supported it, and the witnesses who testified for them are living at the mercy of the men who took the lives of their fellow citizens. They are now going to become the object of the Mafia's vengeance, and they will live at the mercy of the lawless mob.

You must protect your own lives. Will you hold your life at the mercy of the law-proof murderers, or will you protect it by the help of your fellow citizens?

The City statue this morning at 10 o'clock and at 11 o'clock.

As soon as the purpose of the mass meeting became known to Gov. Nicholls he ordered the State militia to be called out to protect the prisoners, but before Gen. Meyer could find his Adjutant General to promulgate the order, the work had been accomplished.

The Stock Exchange held a meeting this morning and expelled from membership therein Mr. Jacob Seligman, the foreman of the jury that brought in the verdict of acquittal. He was charged with having manipulated the jury so that no one should be convicted, and it said it had been increased and large wagers that no one would be accused would sound ominous. Prayune accumulated evidence of Seligman's unreliability, and laid it before District Attorney Lurenborg, but the latter refused to entertain it.

[illegible]

Joe Maccea, who was shown by the testimony in the trial to have been the head of the conspiracy, was a Sicily merchant, the founder of the firm of Maccea, Brothers & Co., a firm of retail connected with it, and the pioneer of the steamship fruit trade with Central America. He was a man of about 50 years of age, and was twenty years ago, where a score of steamships are kept busy to-day. He was somewhat large, and was a pleasant-mannered, peppery gentleman. He has always taken an active part in the labor movement in this country. In the Seymour and Blair campaign of 1905 he organized and commanded a company of New York men, and was elected to the position of captain. He wore a white cape, bearing a Maltese cross on the left shoulder. They were negroes, and when they marched they were singing in six-part harmony a song that was a new negro rag-bolshoi ballad every time. George James B. Stegand, managing the campaign for the labor ticket, was a man of about 35 years of age, of medium height, and was a

On the 14th of September, 1874, just before the opening of the session of the White House League turned out and dispossessed the Keegan Government. Macbeach commanded the Italian company. One of the incidents of the day was the arrest of a man by the Metropolitan police is worthy of recollection. Gen. A. S. Badger, commanding the police, was about to enter a public house in the Strand. In half a dozen places and fell in the street. He was taken to the hospital and died of his wounds. Macbeach took the situation at a glance, threw his men around the fallen crowd and kept the bowling mob, and lifting the crowd back, he ordered his men to surround the men to escort him to the Charity Hospital. Macbeach thus saved his life. Badger is now a member of the committee of fifty appointed to inquire into the affairs of the White House League.

HOW CHIEF HENNESSY WAS ASSASSINATED AT HIS OWN DOORSTEP.

: David C. Hennessy, Chief of the police force of New-Orleans, walked home from his office on the night of Wednesday, Oct. 15, 1890. A friend and fellow-officer accompanied him to within one block of his house, which he reached just a little before midnight. The street was then apparently deserted, but no sooner had Chief Hennessy struck his doorstep than a volley of bullets mounded him and he fell upon the sidewalk mortally wounded.

dictated that there were several assassins, as they skulked away under cover of the darkness the dying Chief's friend, from whom he had parted but a moment before, came hurriedly upon the scene. Many citizens hearing the shot also hastened to the spot. The Chief, it was ascertained, had received three bullets in the stomach besides one just under the heart and one in the left forearm. He was removed to a hospital, where he died at 9 o'clock the following day.

Although the murdered man did not recognize his assailants, circumstances soon pointed to a bloodthirsty gang of Sicilians as the assassins. It was learned that just before Hennessy reached his house an Italian had ran ahead of him and gave a peculiar whistle, which was undoubtedly the signal to the concealed murderers. The dead Chief's associates on the police force recalled the fact that some years ago Hennessy

nessy had nourished the bitter hatred of a certain element of Italians by his vigorous efforts to break up a bloody vendetta of long standing and to bring the guilty men to justice. He arrested a famous bandit, Esposito, who was in hiding in New-Orleans and sent him back to Italy, where he was convicted and punished for his crimes. Threats of vengeance were anonymously sent to Chief Hennessy.



tion of the large Italian community in New-Orleans. He learned many of the secrets of the Sicilian societies and "murder circles," and thereby became a marked man in the eyes of the stealthy and dreaded Mafia.

Public excitement rose to an intense pitch in New-Orleans, when the realization became general that the well-liked Chief of Police had fallen a victim to the Sicilian assassins. For years the people of New-Orleans had read and shuddered over the accounts of atrocious murders committed by the Sicilians among themselves, but never before had the secret vengeance of the Mafia been wreaked upon an American. Chief Hennessy's body was removed to the home of his mother, where it was visited by thousands of people. His murder was the only theme of conversation, and public indignation quickly reached a point where only the most earnest counsels of conservative citizens prevented a wholesale lynching of Italians. A public meeting was called by Mayor Shakespeare, and stirring resolutions were adopted denouncing the murder of Hennessy and avowing a determination on the part of the people to exterminate the Sicilian secret assassination societies. A committee of fifty citizens of the highest standing was appointed by the Mayor to thoroughly investigate the whole subject.

The New-Orleans police force set to work energetically, and within a few hours after Chief Hennessy's death half a dozen arrests had been made. Thanks to the persistent investigations that had been made by the chief of the Police Department was in possession of a very complete history of the Sicilian vendetta in New-Orleans, and of the names of the leaders of the various factions. One of the first persons arrested was Antonio Scofield, who was suspected of having fired one of the fatal shots at Chief Hennessy. He was confined in the Parish Prison. A young paper carrier named Thomas Duffy obtained permission to see the prisoner, and deliberately shot him in the neck. Duffy regarded Chief Hennessy as his best friend. It was at first thought that Scofield would die, but the surgeons pulled him through, and he fell a victim to the lynchers yesterday. The police made fifteen arrests in two days, and all of the prisoners who stood trial were among the number.

The case which is supposed to have incited the killing of Chief Hennessy was narrated at the time as follows: The Provenzanos enjoyed a monopoly in discharging fruit vessels at New-Orleans. Matranga, a noted leader of bandits and the proprietor of a negro gambling and dance house, finding the police too severe on him, concluded to change his business, and by persuasions, threats, and other methods he succeeded in ousting the Provenzanos. A deadly enmity sprang up between the two factions. One night as a gang of Matranga's men were returning from their work they were fired upon and several, including Tom Matranga, were wounded. Chief Hennessy arrested the Sicilians who were accused by the Matranga, and they were convicted. A new trial was secured after persistent efforts, and it was to have begun a few days after the date of Hennessy's assassination. During the investigations occasioned by the application for a new trial, the Chief, it appears, became convinced that the witnesses on the Matranga side had perjured themselves, and that the principal witness for the defense had been assassinated by one of the Matranga gang. He also obtained from Sicily the record of the Matranga, which would have been very damaging to their case. The police were assured by many Italians that it was to prevent Chief Hennessy from telling what he knew about the Matranga that he was murdered.

Matranga was described as having been the head of the dreaded Mafia, or Stoppaghera, society in New-Orleans. There were about 20 leaders and 300 ignorant Sicilians in the society. Members of the Provenzanos faction declared that there were Mafia societies in San Francisco, St. Louis, Chicago, and New-York. The purpose of the society is to further its own ends by any means, assassination being the favorite method. Whenever a member is told to put a certain man "out of the way" he is bound to obey under penalty of death.

#### THE NEWS IN NEW-YORK.

##### THE ITALIAN COLONY EXCITED OVER THE LYNCHING.

Italians in this city were greatly excited when the news of the lynching of their fellow-countryman in New-Orleans was received yesterday. At 5 o'clock they began to gather at the Italian banks and places of resort to hear the latest news. In forcible language they denounced the lynching. Early in the evening arrangements were made for a mass meeting of the various Italian societies and citizens to be held to-night, when the action of the mob in New-Orleans will be protested against. The meeting will probably be held in Webster Hall.

*L'Espresso Italiano-Americano* will publish an extra this morning in regard to the affair. Charles Barsotti, the editor of the paper, and his associates were discussing the matter at the office, 40 Duane Street, yesterday afternoon. They said that two or three of the men reported killed were naturalized citizens, but for all of them the Italian Government claimed protection. What action the Italian Government would take, if any, of course could not be said, but it was believed that an explanation would be asked of the Federal Government why persons proclaimed innocent by an American court should be submitted to such violence, and that a thorough prosecution of those engaged in the jail breaking would be demanded. "It is horrible," added Mr. Barsotti, "that a mob should break down the gates of the jail and kill these men in any event, but the more because they had been fairly tried, and a jury made up of citizens had by their verdict decided that there was not sufficient evidence to convict them. It was well enough to call them murderers before the trial, but the jury had decided that they were not, or at least that it could not be proved against them. One was only seventeen years old.

Signor Barsotti said that a little over \$500 had been raised in this city and sent down to New-Orleans with a view that the men might be able represented at the trial and given a fair one. The money was raised by subscriptions sent in to *L'Espresso Italiano-Americano*. This was the only money subscribed in New-York. A similar subscription, however, had been opened by an Italian journal in New-Orleans. It was believed by the Italian editors yesterday that the impression that pervaded Italy that America was a paradise of freedom would now receive a severe shock.



## CHIEF HENNESSY AVENGED

ELEVEN OF HIS ITALIAN ASSASSINS  
LYNCHED BY A MOB.

AN UPRISING OF INDIGNANT CITIZENS  
IN NEW-ORLEANS—THE PRISON  
DOORS FORCED AND THE ITALIAN  
MURDERERS SHOT DOWN.

NEW-ORLEANS, March 14.—In every paper in the city this morning appeared the following call:

"All good citizens are invited to attend a mass meeting on Saturday, March 14, at 10 o'clock A. M., at Clay Statue, to take steps to remedy the failure of justice in the Hennessy case. Come prepared for action."

John C. Wickliffe,  
B. F. Glover,  
J. G. Pepper,  
C. E. Rogers,  
F. E. Hawes,  
Raymond Hayes,  
L. E. Cenas,  
John M. Parker, Jr.,  
Harris R. Lewis,  
Septeme Villers,  
William M. Ralley,

Dickson Bruns,  
William H. Deeves,  
Richard S. Venables,  
Samuel B. Merwin,  
Omer Villero,  
H. L. Forrot,  
T. D. Mather,  
James P. Mulvey,  
Emile Dupré,  
W. P. Curtiss,  
Charles J. Roulett,

T. S. Barton,  
C. J. Forstall,  
J. F. Queeny,  
J. Moore Wilson,  
F. Henry,  
Hugh W. Brown,  
O. Harrison Parker,  
Edgar H. Farrar,  
J. C. Ahy,  
R. C. D. Hahse,  
C. A. Walscher,  
W. Gosby,  
Charles M. Barnwell,  
H. R. Labouisse,  
Walter D. Denegre,  
George Denegre.

Lee McMillan,  
C. E. Jones,  
J. F. Queeny,  
D. E. Calder,  
Thomas Henry,  
James Lea McLenn,  
Felix Couture,  
T. D. Wharton,  
Frank B. Hayne,  
J. G. Flower,  
James Clarke,  
Thomas H. Kelley,  
E. B. Orden,  
Ulric Atkinson,  
A. Baldwin, Jr.,

any of his regular haunts. The Governor had not heard of the uprising and had no time to act and the police force was too small to offer much resistance to the army of avengers. Superintendent Gaster had ordered an extra detail of officers to be sent to the jail and the small crowd kept the sidewalks around the old building clear until the great multitude, swelling all the time like a mighty roaring stream, surged around the door and crowded the little band of bluecoats away.

Capt. Lem Davis was on guard at the main entrance with a scant force of deputies. They were swept away like chaff before the wind, and in an instant the little ante-room leading into the prison was jammed with eager, excited men.

Meanwhile the prisoners were stricken with terror, for they could hear distinctly the shouts of people without, madly demanding their blood. Innocent and guilty alike were frightened out of their senses, and those who were charged with crimes other than complicity in the murder of the Chief also shared in the general demoralization. Some of the braver among the representatives of the Mafia wanted to die fighting for their lives, and they pleaded for weapons with which to defend themselves, and when they could not find these they sought hiding places. The deputies, thinking to deceive the crowd by a ruse, transferred the nineteen men to the female department, and there the miserable Sicilians trembled in terror until the moment when the doors would yield to the angry throng on the outside.

Capt. Davis refused the request to open the prison, and the crowd began the work of battering in the doors. Around on Orleans Street there was a heavy wooden door, which had been closely barred in anticipation of the coming of the avenging mass. This the crowd selected as their best chance of getting in. Neighboring houses readily supplied axes and battering rams and willing hands went to work to force an opening. This did not prove a difficult task to the determined throng. Soon there was a crash, the door gave way, and in an instant

outside the prison, where they were hanged to the limbs of the nearest trees on the neutral ground. With a gun to his head, Fagnetto was asked who killed the Chief, and said he did not know. They were his last words. The police cut the bodies down and carried them into the Fourth Precinct Police Station.

A part of the Italians, as soon as they were told to hide, got over into the women's side of the prison. The majority got into a cell on the lower floor, from which they were driven out and shot down in a body.

Frank Romero, Rocco Geraceli, Caruso, Charles Trafina, and Monasterio, the shoemaker who lived in the shanty where the assassins gathered, and Loreto Camites were laid out in a row. Most of them had been shot through the brain, and made a horrible sight as they lay weltering in blood and brains. Natali and Sunzeri, two of the men not on trial, and for whom an abbi was claimed, were caught hidden in a doghouse, but one of the leaders claimed protection for them, as they had not yet been tried, and they were turned over to the prison officers. The same course was pursued with Charlie Pietzo, an Italian grocery keeper, at whose place the Mafia are said to have met, and where the guns were gathered before the shooting. He took refuge in the wash house, from which he was pulled out. Incardona, ordered acquitted by the court, was not touched, and John Caruso slipped into a cell with prisoners for minor offences, and the latter were locked up for safe keeping. The boy Marchesi, who is said to have given the signal of the Chief's approach was caught, but the crowd refused to wreak vengeance on so young a victim. When the boy heard that his father was shot, he tried to tear out his eyes.

Two men who concealed themselves effectually and have not yet been seen are Charles Marranga, who was supposed to be a fellow-criminal with Maffuccia in the murderous plot, but against whom no evidence was obtained, and Charles Paterno, a brother of the ex-Alderman, against whom there was also no evidence. The crowd did not want them, anyhow.

The jurors in the Hennessy case are also reaping a bitter harvest to-day. Walker Livandais, a clerk in the Southern Pacific Railroad, was discharged, as his fellow-clerks refused to work with him. J. M. Selligman, the foreman, was partner with his brother in the jewelry business. The brother dissolved the partnership to-day. The clubs and exchanges of which he was a member expelled him, and he sought to leave town this afternoon. A mob captured him on the way to the station, but he was rescued by the police, and has been concealed by his friends. The *New Delta*, published by Col. Parker and edited by Wickliffe, foreshadowed the result in a



John V. Moore,  
William T. Pierson,  
C. L. Stegal,  
W. S. Parkerson,  
S. P. Walmsby,  
E. H. Pierson,  
James D. Houston,  
E. T. Leche.

The verdict of the jury in the Hennessy case had startled and angered everybody. The statements of the jury bore out the suspicion that the members had been purchased. Consequently at 10 o'clock there was a large crowd at Clay Statue on Canal Street. Mr. Parkerson appeared with a number of gentlemen "prepared for action." There was a crowd of young and old men, black and white, but mostly of the best element. Speeches were made by Messrs. Parkerson, Denegre, and Wickliffe.

Shortly before 10 o'clock Mr. Parkerson appeared at the base of the monument. The crowd quickly swarmed around him. He requested them to fall into line. At their head he marched around the monument three times, and ascending the pedestal he turned and made the following address:

PEOPLE OF NEW-ORLEANS: Once before I stood before you for public duty. I now appear before you again actuated by no desire for fame or prominence. Affairs have reached such a crisis that men living in an organized and civilized community, finding their laws fruitless and ineffective, are forced to protect themselves. When courts fail, the people must act. What protection or assurance of protection is there left us when the very head of our Police Department, our Chief of Police, is assassinated in our very midst by the Mafia Society and his assassins are again turned loose on the community? Will every man here follow me and see the murder of Hennessy avenged? Are there men enough here to set aside the verdict of that infamous jury, every one of whom is a perjurer and a scoundrel?

There is another viper in our midst and that is Dominick C. O'Malley. This community must get rid of the man who has had the audacity to enter a libel suit against one of our daily papers that boldly came out and denounced him to the public in his true colors. I now, right here, publicly, openly, and fearlessly, denounce him as a suborner and procurer of witnesses and a briber of juries. Men and citizens of New-Orleans, follow me! I will be your leader.

Mr. Parkerson was enthusiastically cheered throughout his entire speech, and at its close the cries and cheering of the multitude were deafening. Mr. W. Denegre followed and his opening words were drowned by the cries of the crowd, "We have had enough of words! Now

opening, while a mighty shout went up from 10,000 throats. There was more resistance for the intruders, however, but it too was soon overcome with the huge billet of wood which a stout man carried. Then the turnkey was overpowered and the keys were taken from him.

By that time the excitement was intense, none the less so when a patrol wagon drove up with a detachment of policemen, who were driven away under a fire of mud and stones. When the leaders inside the prison got possession of the keys the inside gate was promptly unlocked, and the deputies in the lobby promptly got out of harm's way. The avengers pressed into the yard of the white prisoners. The door of the first cell was open and a group of trembling prisoners stood inside. They were not the men who were wanted, and the crowd very quickly, though with remarkable coolness, burst into the yard. Peering through the bars of the condemned cell was a terror-stricken face which some one mistook for Scofield. A volley was fired at the man and he dropped, but none of the shots struck him, and it was subsequently found that he was not one of the assassins. The inmates of the jail were ready to direct the way to where the Italians were.

"Go to the female department," some one yelled, and thither the men, with their Winchester rifles, ran. But the door was locked. In a moment the key was produced. Then the leader called for some one who knew the right men, and a volunteer responded and the door was thrown open. The gallery was deserted, but an old woman, speaking as fast as she could, said the men were up stairs. A party of seven or eight quickly ascended the staircase, and as they reached the landing the assassins fled down at the other end. Half a dozen followed them. Scarcely a word was spoken. It was this time for action. When the pursued and their pursuers reached the stone court yard the former darted toward the Orleans side of the gallery and crouched down beside the cells. Being unarmed they were absolutely defenseless. In fear and trembling they screamed for mercy. But the avengers were merciless, and a deadly rain of bullets poured into the crouching figures.

Gerachi, the closest man, was struck in the back of the head and his body pitched forward and lay immovable on the stone pavement.

Romero fell to his knees, with his face in his hands, and in that position was shot to death. Monastero and James Caruso fell together under the fire of half a dozen guns, the leaden pellets entering their bodies and heads, and the blood gushing from the wounds.

The executioners did their work well, and beneath the continuing fire Cometex and Trabunia, two of the men who had not been tried, but who were charged jointly with the other accused, fell together. Their bodies were literally riddled with buckshot, and they were dead almost before the fusillade was over.

When the group of assassins was discovered on the gallery, Macheca, Scofield, and old man Marchesi separated from the other six and ran up stairs. Thither half a dozen men followed them, and as the terror-stricken assassins ran into cells they were slain. Jo Macheca, who was charged with being the arch-conspirator, was a short, fat man, and was summarily dealt with. He had his back turned when a shot struck him immediately behind the ear, and his death was instantaneous. There was no blood from the wound, and when the body was found the ear was swollen so as to hide the wound, which the coroner had great

are extracts:

"The time to call a halt has arrived. The individual resigns to organized justice his natural right to protect himself. Organized justice has failed to discharge its functions. Human law is unable to hold at bay or even to punish the midnight murderer. There is nothing left save a resort to that law of God—self-preservation.

"Citizens of New-Orleans, you are brought face to face with the question whether your city shall be ruled by orderly government or by organized assassination. You are to-day to decide whether you are to be governed by laws made by yourselves, or by the edicts of the Sicilian Mafia. Before the setting of the sun to-night, it will be determined whether you are to enjoy the security of orderly citizens of a free republic, or to carry your lives at the mercy of a band of organized assassins.

"Your Chief of Police, the executive head of law itself, has fallen before the vengeance of a band of criminals. For four months you have patiently waited for the law to act. A perjured jury has brought the law to naught, and to-day the officers who conducted the prosecution, the citizens who supported it and the witnesses who testified for it, are living at the mercy of the men who took the life of your officer. At any moment any one of you may become the object of the Mafia's vengeance, and the target for the murderous musket of the lifted assassin. Will you hold your life at the mercy of these law-proof murderers, or will you protect it by the only means this forsworn jury has left you? Go to the Clay statue this morning at 10 o'clock and answer the question for yourselves."

As soon as the purpose of the mass meeting became known to Gov. Nicholls he ordered the State militia to be called out to protect the prisoners, but before Gen. Meyer could find his Adjutant General to promulgate the order, the work had been accomplished.

The Stock Exchange held a meeting this morning and expelled from membership therein Mr. Jacob Seligman, the foreman of the jury that brought in the verdict of acquittal. He was charged with having manipulated the jury so that no one should be convicted, and is said to have been interested in large wagers that not one of the accused would be condemned. The Picayune accumulated evidence of Seligman's unreliability, and laid it before District Attorney Lukenberg, but the latter refused to entertain it, not realizing the extent of the depravity of the defense in its methods.

O'Malley is a private detective here, the partner of Lionel Adams, ex-District Attorney, and he had charge of the "fixing" of the witnesses and jury. He has a bad criminal record, has been in jail in Cleveland, Ohio, and has been indicted on several occasions for various offenses. His special forte is subornation of perjury and bribery. He and Hennessy were deadly enemies, and it is generally supposed that he was back of Macheca in the conspiracy for the assassination. He has always been the agent of the Sicilians whenever they appeared in the Criminal Court, and has been frequently seen in close consultation with the leaders of the Mafia. He is thoroughly fearless and daring, full of insolence and bravado. When the mob meeting was assembling he walked right through it, jokingly talking to acquaintances. He heard Mr. Parkerson's denunciation of his acts, and straightway proceeded to a gun store and bought twenty-five shotgun cartridges loaded with buckshot. Since that time he has been in hiding. He will either leave town or be killed.

Joe Macheca, who was shown by the testimony in the trial to have been the head of the conspiracy, was a wealthy merchant, the founder of the house of Macheca Brothers, though not of the



for action!" Quiet was restored and Mr. Denegre proceeded:

"To-day is the 14th of March. On the 14th of September you assembled on this very spot for a purpose similar to that which has convoked you here this morning. When our late lamented Chief of Police, David C. Hennessy, had been so cruelly stricken down by red-handed assassins, an indignation meeting was held at Lafayette Square. It was there decided that we peacefully and quietly await the action of the law. This we have done. The law has proved a farce and mockery. It now reverts to us to take upon ourselves the right to protect ourselves. Are we to tolerate organized assassination? Not one of those jurors told the truth. While perhaps not all of the twelve accepted a bribe, some of them did. They were bribed, and bribed by whom? By that scoundrel D. C. O'Malley, then whom a more infamous monster never lived. The Committee of Fifty have already notified him to leave town without avail. More forcible action is now called for. Let every one here now follow us with the intention of doing his full duty."

Mr. J. C. Wyckliffe followed in the same denunciatory manner, saying among other things that self-preservation is the first law of nature, and that the time had now come for the citizens of New-Orleans to protect themselves. "If such action as the acquittal of these assassins is to be further tolerated, if nothing is done to forcibly portray the disapproval of the public of this infamous verdict, not one man can expect to carry his life safe in the face of the organized assassination that so powerfully exists in our midst as to openly set law and order at defiance. We now meet at Lafayette Square to talk. We now meet at the foot of Henry Clay's statue to act. Let us therefore act, fellow-citizens. Fall in under the leadership of W. S. Parkinson. James D. Houston will be your First Lieutenant, and I, J. C. Wyckliffe, will be your Second Lieutenant."

Arms had been provided at Royal and Bienville for about fifty men, and the members of the committee who had called the assemblage went there, secured pistols and shotguns, and then the crowd marched on the Parish Prison.

The starting of the crowd had an electric effect on the city. Soon the streets were alive with people running from all directions and joining the main body, which moved sullenly down Rampart Street to the jail near Congo Square. Doors and windows were thrown open, and men, women, and children crowded on the galleries to encourage those who were taking part and to witness the scene.

When the main crowd from Canal Street reached the prison a dense throng had already collected there, all eager to take a hand in

body was found, the ear was swollen so as to hide the wound, which the Coroner had great difficulty in locating.

Scuffed, one of the most villainous of the assassins, dropped like a log when a bullet hit him in the eye. Old man Marchesi was the only one who was not killed outright. He was struck in the top of the head while he stood beside Macheca, and though he was mortally wounded, he lingered all the evening before dying.

Pollize, the crazy man, was locked up in a cell up stairs. The doors were flung open and one of the avengers, taking aim, shot him through the body. He was not killed outright and in order to satisfy the people on the outside, who were crazy to know what was going on within, he was dragged down the stairs and through the doorway by which the crowd had entered. A rope was provided and tied around his neck and the people pulled him up to the crossbars. Not satisfied that he was dead, a score of men took aim and poured a volley of shot into him, and for several hours the body was left dangling in the air.

Bagnetto was caught in the first rush up stairs and the first volley of bullets pierced his brain. He was pulled out by a number of stalwart men through the main entrance to the prison and from the hub of a tree his body was suspended, although life was already gone.

Just as soon as the bloody work was done Mr. Parkinson addressed the crowd, and asked them to disperse. This they consented to do with a ringing shout, but first they made a rush for Parkinson, and lifting him bodily, supported him on their shoulders while they marched up the street. The avengers came back in a body to the Clay statue and then departed. Immense crowds rushed from all directions to the neighborhood of the tragedy, while the streets in front of the newspaper offices were blocked with people anxious to see the latest bulletins.

W. S. Parkinson, who was the Captain of the mob, was the political leader of the Democracy of 1888, and is one of the leading lawyers of the city. James D. Houston, who was announced as chief lieutenant, is also a prominent political leader. John C. Wickliffe, the Second Lieutenant, is one of the editors of the *New Delta*. He is a Kentuckian and a West Pointer. The mob's work was done quickly and without unnecessary violence. No one was injured but the men against whom there was proof of complicity in the assassination of the late Chief of Police, and men who are known to be active agents of the Mafia. The shotguns and ropes of the mob have expunged eleven men. Public sentiment condemned the men indicted for the crime; public action has put them to death. The city is unanimous in upholding the action of the mob.

Coroner Lemonnier spent the day at the prison. The first inquest was on the body of Joe Macheca, the recognized leader of the party, who was stretched out on the gallery of the row of condemned cells on the third floor. He looked perfectly natural, the fatal wound being just below and behind the left ear. He was the only one upon whom much money was found, he having over a hundred dollars in his pocket. Seated, the man in the ololeth coat, who stood at the corner of Basin and Girod and fired the last shot at the Chief, was also shot through the brain. Marchesi, the old bald-headed man, identified as the party who jumped into the street and fired two volleys into the tottering body of Hennessy, also had a bullet in the brain. He evidently crashed at one of the

conspiracy, was a wealthy merchant, the founder of the house of Macheca Brothers, though not of late connected with it, and the pioneer of the steamship fruit trade with Central America, he owning the first steamer to make the venture twenty years ago, where a score of steamships are kept busy to-day. He was worth some hundreds of thousands of dollars, and was a pleasant-mannered, popular gentleman. He has always taken an active interest in Democratic politics. In the Seymour and Blair campaign of 1868 he organized and commanded a company of Sicilians 150 strong, known as the Innocents. Their uniform was a white cape, bearing a Maltese cross on the left shoulder. They wore side arms, and when they marched shot every negro that came in sight. They left a trail of a dozen dead negroes behind them every time. General B. Stedman, managing the campaign here at the time, finally forbade them making further parades, and they disbanded.

On the 14th of September, 1874, just seven years and a half ago, when the White League turned out and dispossessed the Kellogg Government, Macheca commanded the Italian company. One of the incidents of the battle between the White League and the metropolitan police is worthy of recollection. General A. S. Badger, commanding the police, was shot in half a dozen places and fell in the street. The mob rushed for him to administer the coup de grace. Capt. Macheca took in the situation at a glance, threw his men around the fallen foe, drove back the howling mob, and, lifting the wounded man on a stretcher, detailed a squad of his men to escort him to the Charity Hospital. Macheca thus saved his life. Badger is now a member of the committee of fifty appointed by the Mayor to ferret out the Italian assassins.

## THE STORY OF THE MURDER.

### HOW CHIEF HENNESSY WAS ASSASSINATED AT HIS OWN DOORSTEP.

David C. Hennessy, Chief of the police force of New-Orleans, walked home from his office on the night of Wednesday, Oct. 15, 1890. A friend and fellow-officer accompanied him to within one block of his house, which he reached just a little before midnight. The street was then apparently deserted, but no sooner had Chief Hennessy mounted his doorstep than a volley of bullets struck him and he fell upon the sidewalk mortally wounded.

The number of shots fired simultaneously indicated that there were several assassins, and as they skulked away under cover of the darkness the dying Chief's friend, from whom he had parted but a moment before, came hurriedly upon the scene. Many citizens hearing the shots also hastened to the spot. The Chief, it was ascertained, had received three bullets in the stomach besides one just under the heart and one in the left forearm. He was removed to a hospital, where he died at 9 o'clock the following morning.

Although the murdered man did not recognize his assailants, circumstances soon pointed to a bloodthirsty gang of Sicilians as the assassins.



the foot of Henry Clay's statue to talk. We now meet at therefore act, fellow-citizens. Fall in under the leadership of W. S. Parkerson. James D. Houston will be your First Lieutenant, and I, J. C. Wickliffe, will be your Second Lieutenant."

Arms had been provided at Royal and Bientville for about fifty men, and the members of the committee who had called the assembly went there, secured pistols and shotguns, and then the crowd marched on the Parish Prison.

The starting of the crowd had an electric effect on the city. Soon the streets were alive with people running from all directions and joining the main body, which moved sullenly down Rampart Street to the jail near Congo Square. Doors and windows were thrown open, and men, women, and children crowded on the galleries to encourage those who were taking part and to witness the scene.

When the main crowd from Canal Street reached the prison a dense throng had already collected there, all eager to take a hand in whatever might happen. When the vanguard of armed citizens reached the jail, which is many squares from Canal Street, that grim old building was surrounded on all sides.

Sheriff Villere, when he heard that a movement was on foot to take the prisoners, armed his deputies and then started on a hunt for Mayor Shakespeare. The Italian Consul and Attorney General Rogers joined in the pursuit but, his Honor does not reach his office until noon, and he was not to be found at

ment political leader. John C. Wickliffe, the Second Lieutenant, is one of the editors of the *New Delta*. He is a Kentuckian and a West Pointer. The mob's work was done quickly and without unnecessary violence. No one was injured but the men against whom there was proof of complicity in the assassination of the late Chief of Police, and men who are known to be active agents of the Mafia. The shotguns and ropes of the mob have expunged eleven men. Public sentiment condemned the men indicted for the crime; public action has put them to death. The city is unanimous in upholding the action of the mob.

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As soon as the approach of the mob was known, the Italians were released from the rooms where they were confined. They scattered in different directions. Macheca and those just mentioned were terror-stricken, and ran from one corridor to the other without getting out of the way. The crowd found them on the gallery of the condemned cells, and they were shot from the yard and from the gallery entrance. The statement that Macheca had a weapon and faced the mob is denied by the prison officials. Politz and Bagnetto were also caught near by and carried

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Although the murdered man did not recognize his assailants, circumstances soon pointed to a bloodthirsty gang of Sicilians as the assassins. It was learned that just before Hennessy reached his house an Italian had run ahead of him and gave a peculiar whistle, which was undoubtedly the signal to the concealed murderers. The dead Chief's associates on the police force recalled the fact that some years ago Hennessy had incurred the bitter hatred of a certain element of Italians by his vigorous efforts to break up a bloody vendetta of long standing and to bring the guilty men to justice. He arrested a famous bandit, Esposito, who was in hiding in New-Orleans and sent him back to Italy, where he was convicted and punished for his crimes. Threats of vengeance were anonymously sent to Chief Hennessy many times, but, disregarding them, he persisted in his warfare against the lawless por-



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tion of the large Italian community in New-Orleans. He learned many of the secrets of the Sicilian societies and "murder circles," and thereby became a marked man in the eyes of the stealthy and dreaded Mafia.

Public excitement rose to an intense pitch in New-Orleans, when the realization became general that the well-liked Chief of Police had fallen a victim to the Sicilian assassins. For years the people of New-Orleans had read and shuddered over the accounts of atrocious murders committed by the Sicilians among themselves, but never before had the secret vengeance of the Mafia been wreaked upon an American. Chief Hennessy's body was removed to the home of his mother, where it was visited by thousands of people. His murder was the only theme of conversation, and public indignation quickly reached a point where only the most earnest counsels of conservative citizens prevented a wholesale lynching of Italians. A public meeting was called by Mayor Shakespeare, and stirring resolutions were adopted denouncing the murder of Hennessy and avowing a determination on the part of the people to exterminate the Sicilian secret assassination societies. A committee of fifty citizens of the highest standing was appointed by the Mayor to thoroughly investigate the whole subject.

The New-Orleans police force set to work energetically, and within a few hours after Chief Hennessy's death half a dozen arrests had been made. Thanks to the persistent investigations that had been made by the dead chief the Police Department was in possession of a very complete history of the Sicilian vendetta in New-Orleans, and of the names of the leaders of the various factions. One of the first persons arrested was Antonio Scoffedi, who was suspected of having fired one of the fatal shots at Chief Hennessy. He was confined in the Parish Prison. A young paper carrier named Thomas Duffy obtained permission to see the prisoner, and deliberately shot him in the neck. Duffy regarded Chief Hennessy as his best friend. It was at first thought that Scoffedi would die, but the surgeons pulled him through, and he fell a victim to the lynchmen yesterday. The police



victim to the lynchers yesterday. The police made fifteen arrests in two days, and all of the prisoners who stood trial were among the number.

The case which is supposed to have incited the killing of Chief Hennessy was narrated at the time as follows: The Provenzanos enjoyed a monopoly in discharging fruit vessels at New-Orleans. Matranga, a noted leader of bandits and the proprietor of a negro gambling and dance house, finding the police too severe on him concluded to change his business, and by persuasions, threats, and other methods he succeeded in ousting the Provenzanos. A deadly enmity sprang up between the two factions. One night as a gang of Matranga's men were returning from their work they were fired upon and several, including Tony Matranga, were wounded. Chief Hennessy arrested the Sicilians who were accused by the Matrangas, and they were convicted. A new trial was secured after persistent efforts, and it was to have begun a few days after the date of Hennessy's assassination. During the investigations occasioned by the application for a new trial, the Chief, it appears, became convinced that the witnesses on the Matranga side had perjured themselves, and that the principal witness for the defense had been assassinated by one of the Matranga gang. He also obtained from Sicily the record of the Matrangas, which would have been very damaging to their case. The police were assured by many Italians that it was to prevent Chief Hennessy from telling what he knew about the Matrangas that he was murdered.

Matranga was described as having been the head of the dreaded Mafia, or Stoppaghera, Society in New-Orleans. There were about 20 leaders and 300 ignorant Sicilians in the society. Members of the Provenzanos faction declared that there were Mafia societies in San Francisco, St. Louis, Chicago, and New-York. The purpose of the society is to further its own ends by any means, assassination being the favorite method. Whenever a member is told to put a certain man "out of the way" he is bound to obey under penalty of death.



## **ATTACHMENT 4**

*THE NEW-ORLEANS AFFAIR.*

**The New York Times**

Published: March 16, 1891

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EDITORIAL



The records of Judge Lynch's court probably afford no parallel to this bloody business in the city of New-Orleans. The lynching of a pair of murderers or horse thieves in the West or Southwest is not an event of such uncommon occurrence as to attract much attention. But the New-Orleans mob shot to death eleven victims. Two or three others upon whom it sought to carry out its notions of justice could not be found.

The diligence of the mob in doing its work thoroughly and to the end was not, however, its most remarkable characteristic. As was said by a New-Hampshire clergyman who witnessed the sacking of the office of a "Copperhead" newspaper at Concord during the war of the rebellion, it was "a very respectable mob." Nor did its leaders make any concealment of their part in the undertaking. Mr. PARKERSON, Mr. DENEGRE, and Mr. WICKLIFFE made short exhortatory speeches. It was announced that Mr. HOUSTON would be the "First Lieutenant." These are all well-known citizens of New-Orleans. A "committee" had procured rifles, pistols, and shotguns. In broad daylight the angry throng followed its leaders to the Parish Prison. Once inside the walls of the prison, they shot down the crouching and shrieking Italians as they would have shot down street curs.

The New-Orleans Cotton Exchange at once adopted resolutions declaring that the action of the mob was "proper and justifiable." How many citizens of the United States believe that? There can be no doubt that the people of New-Orleans believe it. The Stock Exchange and the Board of Trade adopted similar resolutions. The newspapers do not condemn the lynching, and some of them approve it. Evidently an immense preponderance of popular feeling in New-Orleans sustains the lynchers. It is not probable that any of them will ever be punished.

Nor can there be any doubt that the mob's victims were desperate ruffians and murderers. These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigations. Our own rattlesnakes are as good citizens as they. Our own murderers are men of feeling and nobility compared to them. These men of the Mafia killed Chief HENNESSY in circumstances of peculiar atrocity. That assassination was a menace to the peace and good order of the city of New-Orleans and to every one of its inhabitants.

To these circumstances of unusual provocation, there was added the astonishing verdict of the jury acquitting most of the indicted murderers, and disagreeing as to the rest. The evidence had been considered ample for conviction. The conclusion that the jury had been corrupted was irresistible. The acquitted men were about to be set at liberty. The

miscarriage of justice would then have been complete and irremediable. Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New-Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to continue its bloody practices.

That was the justification of the mob, if it had any justification. Orderly and law-abiding persons will not pretend that the butchery of the Italians was either "justifiable or proper." There is no room for argument about that, for before the argument begins we must grant the postulate that our civilization and our patiently-constructed system of criminal jurisprudence are failures. Yet while every good citizen will readily assent to the proposition that this affair is to be deplored, it would be difficult to find any one individual who would confess that privately he deplores it very much. That is because human nature, in some respects, has been but slightly modified since the days of savagery by civilization and criminal jurisprudence, and "respect for the constable's staff."

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## **ATTACHMENT 5**

## LIST OF THOSE MURDERED

- Antonio Bagnetto, fruit peddler: Tried and acquitted.
- James Caruso, stevedore: Not tried.
- Loreto Comitis, tinsmith: Not tried.
- Rocco Geraci, stevedore: Not tried.
- Joseph P. Macheca, fruit importer: Tried and acquitted.
- Antonio Marchesi, fruit peddler: Tried and acquitted.
- Pietro Monasterio, cobbler: Mistrial.
- Emmanuele Polizzi, street vendor: Mistrial.
- Frank Romero, ward politician: Not tried.
- Antonio Scaffidi, fruit peddler: Mistrial.
- Charles Traina, rice plantation laborer: Not tried.



## **ATTACHMENT 6**

2 PRESENTATION OF AN OFFICIAL APOLOGY FOR THE 1891  
3 LYNCHING BY MAYOR LaTOYA CANTRELL  
4 APRIL 12, 2019  
5

6 MR. SPEAKER: And I am just so proud to  
7 stand here today and introduce our Mayor, our  
8 cool Mayor, LaToya Cantrell. It's true.

9 MAYOR CANTRELL: Thank you. Thank you  
10 so much. I appreciate this.

11 All these microphones are here, for a  
12 good reason.

13 Well, good morning.

14 I have to acknowledge Michael Santo,  
15 who, of course, is -- and the Order Sons and  
16 Daughters of Italy.

17 Bishop Cheri, thank you for being here  
18 with us. Our Honorable General Counsel of  
19 Italy, thank you so much. You mentioned the  
20 office is in Houston, but I said we need to  
21 make sure we have something in New Orleans.

22 Frank Micelli, thank you.

23 And, of course, Vincenzo, for your work  
24 on this.

25 And I also want to recognize our



2 International Director of Intergovernmental  
3 Affairs, Ms. Rosine Pama Sanga, who is in  
4 the back. Please stand, Ms. Rosine. Thank  
5 you. She's been very instrumental on this,  
6 but as we, as a city, really embrace the  
7 international fabric that is woven within  
8 this city that has made New Orleans truly  
9 who she is.

10 So I am absolutely here today in my  
11 capacity as mayor of this city speaking for  
12 the City of New Orleans in our entirety and  
13 standing up for her and for all of her  
14 people.

15 I am here as this issue, in my opinion,  
16 is called for a formal apology.

17 On March 14th, 1891, 11 Italians were  
18 made the victims of a lynch mob on the  
19 streets right here in the City of  
20 New Orleans.

21 The city government at that time  
22 declined to seek justice for our people,  
23 and, in fact, was implicated in the  
24 violence. That's why I am here, and that's  
25 why I am standing.

2                   This led to a rapture in Italian-  
3                   American relations, and it was a serious,  
4                   very serious, injustice.

5                   It is my role to step up and wrangle  
6                   with the difficult parts of our shared  
7                   story, and to do so with honesty and with  
8                   seriousness.

9                   What happened to those 11 Italians, it  
10                  was wrong, and the city owes them and their  
11                  descendants a formal apology. Again, that's  
12                  why I'm before you.

13                 At this late date, we cannot give  
14                 justice, but we can be intentional and  
15                 deliberate about what we do going forward.

16                 This attack was an act of  
17                 anti-immigrant violence. New Orleans is a  
18                 welcoming city, and I played a role in  
19                 creating that and passing that resolution  
20                 while serving on the New Orleans City  
21                 Council for six years.

22                 And violence like this cannot be  
23                 tolerated. The Italian-American community  
24                 is not alone in their cries for justice. We  
25                 know that, as well.



2                   In our 300 history of the City of  
3                   New Orleans that we have accomplished really  
4                   so much, and we just came off of our 300th  
5                   anniversary commemorating it, but there  
6                   remains serious and dark chapters to our  
7                   shared story that remain untold and  
8                   unaccounted for. There are many  
9                   communities, ethnic and racial minorities,  
10                  communities of color, members of our LGBT  
11                  community that have never had their wrongs  
12                  done to them or their people addressed.  
13                  That's a fact, as well.

14                 Some people didn't want me to make this  
15                 apology today. But if you know me, I'm  
16                 always going to have the courage to stand up  
17                 what -- what I know is the right thing to do  
18                 in spite of.

19                 And some of that lead to well, will  
20                 this mayor then open up the flood gates,  
21                 right. Where does it stop? Who gets an  
22                 apology? Who doesn't?

23                 So I'm here today because it's not just  
24                 about black and white; it's not just about  
25                 what happened then; it's about what we do

2           and what we do next, because we have an  
3           obligation, because I have a responsibility  
4           to deal with what's in front of me and to  
5           speak honestly about the challenges we face  
6           and those that shape our history, and, more  
7           importantly, our future.

8                     In 128 years will we be proud of who we  
9           are now in 128 years from now of what we're  
10          doing right now? That's how I put things in  
11          perspective. Because it is, in fact, about  
12          moving forward.

13                    In 128 years what will our  
14          great-grandchildren say looking back on  
15          New Orleans in the year of 2019? What will  
16          they say?

17                    We have a shared responsibility to make  
18          them proud. I believe that. And I'm not  
19          just a Mayor. I'm a mother. That means  
20          something to me.

21                    So with that, I want to make sure that  
22          we work together and see that our city live  
23          up to her reputation as being a welcoming  
24          city, because talk is cheap, and I want to  
25          demonstrate to you that I am not only your



2           mayor, but I'm willing not only to talk it,  
3           but I'm willing to walk it.

4           We reject anti-immigrant violence and  
5           anti-immigrant rhetoric. We reject gun  
6           violence, and the scapegoating of those who  
7           are different. We embrace the stranger. We  
8           embrace the foreigner. We embrace those who  
9           come here seeking something better than what  
10          they have left behind.

11          So I stand here with you today, and I  
12          issue this formal apology for ugliness that  
13          is 128 years old, and I ask you to continue  
14          to stand with me against anti-immigrant  
15          violence, against division, and to stand up  
16          for what I've comb -- coined a city of yes.  
17          And for the idea that we have a  
18          responsibility to be inclusive, to be  
19          intentional and to be the kind of people  
20          that our children are not apologizing for  
21          128 years from now. That's what this is  
22          about. That's what this is about.

23          And I had the fortunate opportunity of  
24          leading a delegation to Cuba last week, and  
25          one of the things that stuck with me,

2           although there are many and I will share  
3           with you at some other time, but what became  
4           crystal clear that even 50 years ago, when  
5           there was a campaign to ensure that literacy  
6           was the priority of Cuba, 50 years ago that  
7           nation, that community can stand today and  
8           say they are 99.6 percent literate, well  
9           above the United States of America, well  
10          above the City of New Orleans, but that was  
11          because of courage and leadership at the  
12          time that stood up for the people of that  
13          time and made an impact today.

14                 So that's the type of mayor that I plan  
15          to be, and I'm standing up to be for each  
16          and every one of you, having the courage to  
17          plant seeds today so that, again, in 128  
18          years from now, that no one has to  
19          apologize, not only for my actions, but  
20          yours alike. We truly are in this together.

21                 Thank you for that. Thank you for  
22          that.

23                 We cannot change history, but we can  
24          acknowledge it and we can grow from it.

25                 So I want to say thank you to our



2 Italian-American community, who has made  
3 New Orleans what she is today -- it's a  
4 fact, it's a fact -- for your contributions  
5 to the culture and economy, our landscape of  
6 our city and, of course, our country, we  
7 cannot deny that.

8 So on behalf of the citizens of  
9 New Orleans, I will present a proclamation  
10 to the Honorable Federico and the  
11 Italian-American community at this time.  
12 And no one forced me to stand up. I was  
13 simply asked, and that is all it takes. If  
14 you want something, say something, and be  
15 willing to go the extra mile to make it  
16 happen and just imagine what we can do for  
17 our future.

18 I want to acknowledge our District  
19 Attorney, who is with us, Leon Cannizzaro.  
20 Thank you, sir. I didn't see you initially.  
21 Yes. I didn't see you initially, sir, but I  
22 know what you mean to this community and to  
23 the Italian-American fabric of our  
24 community.

25 So with this, Mr. Federico, I do not

2           want to destroy your last name. You can  
3           teach me because I'm willing to learn, but  
4           if nothing else, I came in red and white,  
5           and I said I'll be standing by the flag with  
6           green to show you that I was intentional  
7           about coming here, standing up and to  
8           apologize on behalf of the City of  
9           New Orleans.

10                 MR. FEDERICO: Thank you so much.

11           Thank you.

12                 MAYOR CANTRELL: Thank you.

13                 MR. FEDERICO: Thank you.

14                 \*           \*           \*           \*           \*

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## **ATTACHMENT 7**



# *City of New Orleans*

## *Office of the Mayor*



### *Certificate of Recognition*

*Whereas, on March 14, 1891, eleven Italian-Americans were murdered by a mob in the City of New Orleans over their alleged involvement in the death of the City's police chief; and*

*Whereas, historical accounts indicate that New Orleans' political leadership was complicit in these crimes; and*

*Whereas, these crimes were committed during a time of rising anti-Italian sentiment; and*

*Whereas, no one has ever been indicted or prosecuted for perpetrating these crimes.*

*Therefore be it resolved that the City of New Orleans offers its deepest apologies to the descendants of those victims, to the City's Italian-American community; and*

*Therefore be it further resolved that the City of New Orleans hereby recognizes the Italian-American community's numerous contributions to the cultural and economic landscape of the City of New Orleans and to the entire country.*

*Be it proclaimed that on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April of the year 2019,  
I, LaToya Cantrell, Mayor of the City of New Orleans, hereby present recognition for our*

### ***New Orleans Italian-American Community***

*In recognition of anti-immigrant sentiment of the past, and with hopes  
for our city to be welcoming to all immigrant groups in the future.*

**Mayor LaToya Cantrell**  
**City of New Orleans**





**City of New Orleans  
Office of the Mayor**

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**NEW ORLEANS ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY**

In recognition of anti-immigrant sentiment of the past, and with hopes  
for our city to be welcoming to all immigrant groups in the future.

---

**Mayor LaToya Cantrell  
City of New Orleans**



## **ATTACHMENT 8**

# No, You Don't Have to Stop Apologizing

A little reframing of how we think about saying sorry is all it takes.



By Kristin Wong

April 22, 2019

At a parade last February, a woman standing next to me dropped her jacket in a puddle and cursed.

“Sorry,” I said. She smiled and told me not to apologize, because it isn’t my fault. But that’s not quite what I meant — I wasn’t taking responsibility. I was just sorry she had a wet jacket.

As simple as they seem, apologies are a complicated part of language. There’s been a push in recent years, especially among women, to apologize less. The knee-jerk reaction to be polite undermines your confidence, critics say, and underscores your own insecurity. But the language of apology isn’t quite this simple.

When I asked Deborah Tannen, a professor of linguistics at Georgetown, why some people apologize too much, she said apologizing is a natural part of our language, and the idea of over-apologizing is subjective.

“I think the question should be, ‘Why do we stigmatize apologies?’” Dr. Tannen said. Put simply, maybe apologizing isn’t as bad as we think.

By definition, an apology is an acknowledgment of offense or failure, but words don’t always mean their dictionary definition: Context matters, Dr. Tannen said. Words are defined in how they’re used and an apology is used in many different ways, so it serves many different functions. Some apologies are meant to repair a relationship, like when you forget to pick up your friend at the airport. Some apologies show respect, like when you submit a report to your boss and it’s a day



relationship, like when you forget to pick up your friend at the airport. Some apologies show respect, like when you submit a report to your boss and it's a day or two late. And some apologies are simply meant to smooth out a conversation, Dr. Tannen added. Gender and culture influence the way we use apologies, and sometimes what we say gets lost in translation.

"A typical thing for women is that people think they're being overly accommodating when they apologize, even if they're not using the apology that way," Dr. Tannen said. Sounds like that's what the woman in the wet jacket was thinking.

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Madeleine Burry, a freelance writer living in New York, tried an experiment where she stopped apologizing for a week.

"I searched my inbox for the word, 'Sorry,' and it was a little horrifying," Ms. Burry said. She also downloaded a browser extension that warned her every time she typed an apology. "It was like a verbal tic, like saying, 'Um.' It was something I would reach for when I wasn't really sure what to say."

While the experiment helped her rethink her communication style, Ms. Burry eventually found it unnecessarily taxing and deleted the browser extension.

"I get it. Maybe women apologize a lot," she said. "But the counterpoint is, why don't men apologize more? Maybe we should stop thinking of apologizing as such a bad thing."

A series of studies found that women apologize more than men because they report committing more offenses than men. "This finding suggests that men apologize less frequently than women because they have a higher threshold for what constitutes offensive behavior," the study's researchers concluded. "It takes a more serious offense for men to think of an apology as deserved," Karina Schumann, one of the study's researchers, said in an email. In another study, Dr.

Schumann, one of the study's researchers, said in an email. In another study, Dr. Schumann and her colleagues gave men and women various hypothetical offenses to commit. Men rated the offenses as less severe and less deserving of an apology than women. "These findings supported our suspicion that men apologize less often because they are less likely to think they've offended anyone," Dr. Schumann said.

In other words, women — and surely frequent apologizers in general — seem to be more empathic. If you value empathy, this finding isn't necessarily bad news. "I do believe that deliberately withholding all apologies, regardless of your gender, would not be beneficial," Dr. Schumann added.

Still, there are practical reasons you might want to curb an apology habit that have nothing to do with your purported lack of confidence. In her book, "Talking From 9 to 5," Dr. Tannen writes about the problems women face when they apologize, particularly in the workplace.

For example, apologetic language can get in the way of negotiating, which requires assertiveness. Even if you feel confident when you apologize, others may view it as weak. In that case, the apologetic language serves as a barrier between you and your request.

"I do actually apologize less in emails, especially in a work context," Ms. Burry added about her default response to apologize in professional situations. "I give my email a quick scan before I hit send and look for instances in which I'm unnecessarily apologizing. I ask myself, 'Is this performing a function or is it just making the email longer than it needs to be?'"

There's an added problem: Women can also face backlash when they don't apologize.

"Women are in a double bind. If we talk in a way that people think is self-effacing, like apologizing a lot, or not talking up what we're good at, or acting like we're better than everyone else, we're underestimated at work," Dr. Tannen said. "But if you talk in a way that you're confident, then you're seen as too aggressive."



if you talk in a way that you're confident, then you're seen as too aggressive."

The solution, Dr. Tannen said, is to find a balance between your own communication style and how others may perceive that style.

"You'll want to find a combination of what's comfortable for you personally and the effect of the way you're speaking depending on the context," she said. There are a few ways to do this.

**Ask yourself why you apologize.** Instead of cutting out your apologies, pay attention to how you feel when you apologize. Does apologizing make you feel weak or insecure? Do you apologize because you crave the approval of strangers? If so, then you may choose to apologize less to see how the habit affects your self-esteem. Like me, you might feel reasonably confident when you apologize. "Sorry" might simply be part of your politeness language, like saying, "Excuse me." Trying to apologize less might make you feel more undermined than simply being yourself.

**Observe your behavior.** Especially in workplace situations, you might want to note how your apologies come across to others, Dr. Tannen suggests. How do people react? Do they seem to take more advantage if you're overly apologetic? In some cases, if you want to establish boundaries with a peer or colleague, adjusting your language might be part of that. That's not to say apologizing is bad, but words are powerful, and you may need to pull back in some situations. "So if you keep getting told don't apologize it's not your fault, you might say, 'I'm not apologizing because I think I did something wrong, I'm apologizing out of politeness,'" Dr. Tannen said.

**Know when an apology is in order.** It feels good to not apologize. A study published in The European Journal of Social Psychology found that people who refused to apologize after a mistake felt more powerful and had higher self-esteem than those who did not refuse. Refusing to apologize feels good, but that doesn't make it healthy. "If you've done something that has major negative consequences for someone else, it's important to acknowledge if you value the health of the relationship," Dr. Tannen said. A 2016 study identified six traits of an effective apology. You must express regret, explain what went wrong,

health of the relationship,” Dr. Tannen said. A 2016 study identified six traits of an effective apology. You must express regret, explain what went wrong, acknowledge responsibility, declare repentance, offer a solution and request forgiveness.

**Meta-communicate.** Dr. Tannen also recommended communicating about your communication style. If a friend approaches you about apologizing too much, you could tell her that you don't apologize to self-deprecate, but rather out of courtesy or politeness. Dr. Tannen suggested something like, “You know, I do say ‘I’m sorry’ a lot, but I’m not putting myself down. It just means I want to acknowledge the effect of what I did or what happened to you.”

If apologizing out of politeness makes you feel bad about yourself, you should feel perfectly O.K. with biting your tongue, too. Again, the solution is simply to understand your personal communication style while still being aware of how others may perceive it.

But even apologizing out of politeness can serve a purpose.

“Asking people to stop apologizing is like asking them to stop saying hello and goodbye,” Dr. Tannen said. “Those kinds of automatic courtesies are what make it possible to live together.”

A version of this article appears in print on April 22, 2019, on Page B6 of the New York edition with the headline: You Don't Have to Stop Saying You're Sorry



## **ATTACHMENT 9**

# *To Our Readers, From the Publisher and Executive Editor*

Nov. 13, 2016

When the biggest political story of the year reached a dramatic and unexpected climax late Tuesday night, our newsroom turned on a dime and did what it has done for nearly two years — cover the 2016 election with agility and creativity.

After such an erratic and unpredictable election there are inevitable questions: Did Donald Trump's sheer unconventionality lead us and other news outlets to underestimate his support among American voters? What forces and strains in America drove this divisive election and outcome? Most important, how will a president who remains a largely enigmatic figure actually govern when he takes office?

As we reflect on the momentous result, and the months of reporting and polling that preceded it, we aim to rededicate ourselves to the fundamental mission of Times journalism. That is to report America and the world honestly, without fear or favor, striving always to understand and reflect all political perspectives and life experiences in the stories that we bring to you. It is also to hold power to account, impartially and unflinchingly. You can rely on The New York Times to bring the same fairness, the same level of scrutiny, the same independence to our coverage of the new president and his team.

We cannot deliver the independent, original journalism for which we are known without the loyalty of our readers. We want to take this opportunity, on behalf of all Times journalists, to thank you for that loyalty.

Sincerely,

Arthur Sulzberger Jr., publisher

Dean Baquet, executive editor



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LETTER OF MAY 1, 2019

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To: NEW YORK TIMES EXECUTIVE AND EDITORIAL STAFF

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