

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 204

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 171

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 204—Relative to Little Italy in the City of San Diego.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 16, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 204, Wayne. City of San Diego's Little Italy.

This bill would designate specified exits on Interstate 5 as the route for the destination of Little Italy and would request the Department of Transportation to determine the costs of appropriate plaques and markers and, upon receipt of donations, to erect these plaques and markers.

WHEREAS, San Diego's Middletown district was a historic settling area for Italian American immigrants, in which they created a unique extra-national community in the early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, In 1906, the San Francisco earthquake and an influx of Italian immigrants from San Pedro, where fishermen that hailed from Naples and Ischia had settled, caused San Diego's Italian population to swell; and

WHEREAS, These immigrants joined with local populations of Mexican, Japanese, and Portuguese in small fishing enterprises, where they became vital to the establishment and growth of the tuna fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, The fishing industry helped establish other businesses in the community of Little Italy; and

WHEREAS, The fishing fleet became a source of wealth for the City of San Diego; and

WHEREAS, In 1945, the fishermen's committee organized to ensure the success of the Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, the currently active community church, with members signing an agreement promising to donate 25 cents for every ton of fish that the boats sold; and

WHEREAS, As Italians grew in the social and economic ranks of the city, many moved away from Little Italy; and

WHEREAS, The completion of Interstate 5 in 1962 disrupted the neighborhood, causing residents to relocate, and the community lost its identity as a place where Italians lived; and

WHEREAS, In the mid-1990s, the San Diego Centre City Development Corporation initiated the process of the reconstruction and reconditioning of Little Italy; and



WHEREAS, Little Italy is today a thriving neighborhood that has become an example for other redevelopment projects in San Diego County; and

WHEREAS, The local business community has established the Little Italy Association, a recognized business improvement district that works in concert with the City of San Diego to ensure the success of the neighborhood and to emphasize and support its commercial success; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of Little Italy as a destination through the placement of freeway markers and plaques will encourage the continued growth and redevelopment of this important component of the history of San Diego; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the Hawthorne Street exit on Interstate 5 north and the Front Street exit on Interstate 5 south near downtown San Diego, as the defined routes for the destination of Little Italy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the signing requirements of the state highway system, showing this designation, and upon receiving donations from nonstate sources, to erect these plaques and markers, provided that the City Council of the City of San Diego has first approved a resolution designating the area referenced in this resolution as the Little Italy district ; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.

