



## **Fiorello LaGuardia By Gabriella Sgro**

Fiorello La Guardia said "Only a well-fed, well-housed, well-schooled people can enjoy the blessings of liberty." La Guardia said this in 1934, shortly after being sworn in as the mayor of New York City. He was defending the poor citizens of New York City and holding the plutocrats of Wall Street accountable for their abuses of power. As someone who learned about the corrupt Wall Street bankers and their effect on the government in school, I find this quote, as well as many of La Guardia's political beliefs, incredibly admirable. His dedication to the people and to creating a better life for the every-day man of New York City is impressive, and truly helped make a difference in a time of such uncertainty.

La Guardia contributed many things to 1930's New York City, including their subway system, public playgrounds, airports, and low-cost public housing. He helped modernize their infrastructure for the better. He was described as a man who was self-confident, determined, and charismatic with the press. All of these characteristics align with the typical personality-traits associated with those of the Italian nationality. Someone would describe the stereotype of an Italian person as friendly, passionate, and loyal. And while stereotypes are frequently used to draw hurtful or offensive generalizations about groups of people, I would hardly call these Italian stereotypes hurtful. They show that Italian people have a strong character that is widely seen as a positive one.

This character is seen in Fiorello La Guardia. He was a strong, passionate, and determined man who used his Italian character to help others and put himself in a position of power that would allow him to change the course of New York City's history.