

# AMERICAN MUSLIM APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

## Alameda County

**WHEREAS**, freedom of religion holds distinction as a cherished right and a fundamental value upon which the law and ethics of the United States are based; and

**WHEREAS**, over 90,000 Muslims live in Alameda County and make innumerable contributions to the cultural, political, and economic fabric and well-being of California and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County has a diverse and thriving Muslim community and is “home to one of the Bay Area’s oldest African American Muslim communities [which] pioneered Islamic education in an American setting”, along with numerous Muslim-owned mosques and businesses, which make positive contributions to the County through community service and other initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, over 40 mosques are located in Alameda County and cater to the spiritual and social needs of the Muslim community by providing religious and community services; and

**WHEREAS**, Masjidul Waritheen, established in 1975 in Oakland under the name Masjid Muhammad as with all of the temples of the Nation of Islam at that time, is the second oldest mosque in the Bay Area and was ideologically influenced by Elijah Muhammad’s successor, Imam Warith Deen Mohammed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California is the East Bay’s first Shi’a Muslim institution since 1995 and seeks to represent diversity, inclusivity, and compassion and celebrate Islam through art, education, and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland Athletics hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Muslim Heritage Night at the Oakland Coliseum on July 25, 2019 and included an exclusive Muslim Heritage Night t-shirt designed by local Muslim artist Noor Qwfan. Islam truly is as American as baseball; and

**WHEREAS**, Zaytuna College, located on a ten-acre historic campus in Berkeley, is the first Muslim liberal arts college in the United States. The college aims to educate and prepare morally committed professional, intellectual, and spiritual leaders who are grounded in the Islamic scholarly tradition and conversant with the cultural currents and critical ideas shaping modern society; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB925 located in Pleasanton strives to build an active and thoughtful community by focusing on a holistic approach to the health and healing of the body, mind and spirit. The HUB offers a variety of fitness and sports activities, various spa therapies, and interfaith programs in order to accomplish their goal to foster understanding and community; and

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County is home to the largest community of Afghan Americans in the United States and the Centerville district of Fremont, known as Little Kabul, has numerous Afghan restaurants, shops, and mosques, and is home to Dr. Khaled Hosseini, a renowned author of such books as “The Kite Runner,” “Thousand Splendid Suns” and “And the Mountains Echoed”; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to acknowledge and promote awareness of the myriad of invaluable contributions of American Muslims in California and across the country and extend to them the respect and camaraderie every American deserves.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved, the County of Alameda hereby joins communities throughout the State of California in recognizing the month of August 2019 as American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month.

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**Richard Valle, President**  
Supervisor, District 2

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**Keith Carson, Vice President**  
Supervisor, District 5

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**Scott Haggerty**  
Supervisor, District 1

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**Wilma Chan**  
Supervisor, District 3

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**Nate Miley**  
Supervisor, District 4