

Afghan-American Heritage Month

March 2024

WHEREAS, Alameda County, California, is home to a diverse and vibrant population that encompasses people of various ethnic backgrounds, cultures, and traditions, contributing to the rich mosaic of our county; and

WHEREAS, Afghan-American Heritage Month, to be observed during the Afghan New Year, also known as Nowruz in Afghanistan marking the arrival of spring - *symbolizing rebirth, light, new beginnings, nature, love, beauty* - and the first day of the year on Afghanistan's official calendar from March 1st - March 31st, provides a special opportunity for Alameda County residents to honor and celebrate the profound and enduring contributions of our Afghan-American community to the social, cultural, economic, and civic life of our county and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Afghan- a term used in this context to describe the people of diverse heritages, ethnic groups, or citizenry that historically originate from the nation-state and internationally recognized geographical borders of modern-day Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the Afghan community in Alameda County represents a proud tapestry of individuals and families who trace their roots to Afghanistan- *a landlocked south-central Asian multiethnic country, containing diverse ethnic and linguistic groups* - bringing their unique traditions, histories, and experiences to our community; and

WHEREAS, the Afghan community has played an essential role in shaping Alameda County's identity, contributing significantly to various sectors such as education, healthcare, arts, business, public service, and community leadership, making Alameda County a more vibrant and inclusive place to live; and

WHEREAS, recognizing and celebrating Afghan-American Heritage Month provides an opportunity to promote cultural awareness, inclusivity, and unity among all residents of Alameda County, fostering a sense of belonging and understanding among our diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, through educational programs, cultural events, and community initiatives, we can deepen our appreciation for the rich tapestry of Afghan heritage, fostering connections, and building bridges of friendship among all residents; and

WHEREAS, this year we would like to highlight Alameda County Afghan-American community members for their significant impact in welcoming Afghan newcomers in Alameda County. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment have consistently enriched our county's workforce and strengthened its ability to serve all residents equitably.

NOW, THEREFORE, this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby proclaim **March 2024** as "**Afghan-American Heritage Month**" during the Afghan New Year and continue to recognize our shared aspirations and celebrate the unique influences of Afghan culture. We encourage everyone to commemorate this important occasion and recognize the history and legacy of Afghan-Americans for all their contributions in our communities locally, nationally, and globally.

NATE MILEY, President
Supervisor, Fourth District

DAVID HAUBERT, Vice President
Supervisor, First District

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