

American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month

City of Dublin

WHEREAS, enriched by the unparalleled diversity of its residents, the City of Dublin takes great pride in supporting individual religious freedoms and is strengthened by the many varied religious, political, and cultural traditions and contributions of its diverse populations, including those that practice Islam; and

WHEREAS, Muslims have been part of U.S. history from the beginning and have contributed to the production of wealth and construction of the nation; they are also part of the rich history of the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, over 90,000 Muslims live in Alameda County¹, and make innumerable contributions to the cultural, political, and economic fabric and well-being of California and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the shelter-in-place order due to the COVID-19 outbreak forced the temporary closure of Muslim nonprofits, community centers, mosques, schools, businesses, and other establishments. Mosques and community organizations provided online programming and sermons along with small group prayers outside. They have answered the call for help by donating fundsⁱⁱⁱ, distributing food, or by sewing masks to help those on the front line; and they have educated their congregations about social distancing guidelines and practices to keep the community safe; and

WHEREAS, in addition to prayer services, Islamic classes, and interfaith work, the Muslim Community Center (MCC–East Bay) has been at the forefront to provide assistance to people in need. They have housed a food pantry since 2010², provided assistance with living expenses through the Islamic practice of Zakat to 50 East Bay families per month, and continued their weekly food donation drive to 150 families weekly with 25,000 pounds of food delivered to 13 East Bay cities. They host a quarterly blood drive, facilitate hundreds of car donations between congregation members and community members, and an annual backpack drive for hundreds of schoolchildren (sponsored by Girl Scouts Troop 30875). They also provide rental assistance, refugee support, burial services, financial counseling, voter registration, free Covid testing, mental health counseling and therapy, and support for the victims of domestic violence through a partnership with North American Islamic Shelter for the Abused and Tri-Valley Haven. The East Bay is home to one of the largest Afghan communities in the United States, and MCC East Bay stepped up to help settle these families during this difficult time in relation to the evacuation; and

WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, the Islamic Center of Zahra (ICZ) has served its community members by holding virtual youth events, spiritual workshops, children's learning programs, and volunteering opportunities. ICZ has partnered with Prosper International to support vulnerable

¹ Senzai , Farid , and Hatem Bazian. “The Bay Area Muslim Study: Establishing Identity and Community.” Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. One Nation Bay Area Project, 01 May 2013. Page 9.

² “Muslim Community Center Serves Many”, Retrieved July 8, 2022, from <https://www.hacienda.org/news-events/hacienda-online/pulse/2022/company/muslim-community-center-serves-many>

families overseas³. ICZ relief fund⁴ supports community members in need of assistance and facing unemployment by creating a program⁵ that allows community members to volunteer to assist the vulnerable elderly in running errands and by adapting their annual *Ramadan Giving*⁶ campaign to a virtual format that encouraged community members to sponsor a months' worth of food supplies for 10 families and aid non-profit agencies involved in feeding the needy; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to acknowledge and promote awareness of the myriad of invaluable contributions of Muslims in California and across the country, and provide them the respect and acknowledgment every person deserves.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the City of Dublin does hereby recognize the California State Designation of August 2022 as American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month to acknowledge the rich history, contributions, and guiding virtues of Muslims and to commend all Muslim communities in California for the lasting positive impact they have made toward the advancement of our city and country.

³ "Help Fight COVID-19 [Support Prosper International]." *All-In-One Integrated Marketing Platform for Small Business*, mailchi.mp/iczsa.org/proper?fbclid=IwAR0To-bYhP-_eU0n4JOcLuZGzyGu56OaFNjU-RiHf-ShWk2NVjXvR3TF LTM.

⁴ "ICZ Relief Fund 2020 & Helping Hands." *All-In-One Integrated Marketing Platform for Small Business*, mailchi.mp/iczsa.org/iczrelieffund?fbclid=IwAR39GF7OdT6P_bGtA7gvjM8tASWOy4p5ROJ_jRvemx4cs1rW7V Mkx7hGHKs.

⁵ "Lending a Helping Hand to Our Community." *All-In-One Integrated Marketing Platform for Small Business*, mailchi.mp/iczsa.org/march10-1337205?fbclid=IwAR0dTyF6o9YgbEtQLvi2eIYz2IOIKvd_6DYzYS4MguV5WEZ g1YMGC4Qr7PU.

⁶ "Ramadan Giving - Iftar Sponsorships [UPDATED Sign-Up Instructions]." *All-In-One Integrated Marketing Platform for Small Business*, mailchi.mp/iczsa.org/ramadan-giving-iftar-sponsorships-1349702?fbclid=IwAR0SVADUVFgnpl6enEC7a8Ug6Wm 7juvgNpm_PLGGYWBjULqItgssFcjNrFk.