

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAPLAN

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020 AS AMERICAN MUSLIM APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND

WHEREAS, the 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, Oakland has a diverse and thriving Muslim community, “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 businesses and mosques that make positive contributions to the city and cater to the spiritual and social needs through providing religious and community services; 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 have provided online programming and sermons along with small group prayers outside. They have answered the call for help by donating funds, 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, the Support Life Foundation in partnership with Oakland mosques and organizations such as the Oakland Islamic Center, Lighthouse Mosque, Masjid As-Salaam, Masjidul Waritheen, Jamaat-us-Salam, Oakland Islamic Community Center, Masjid Abu Bakr, Eating Rights of MU’EED, and ICCNC have packed and distributed over 100,000 lbs. of food staples and masks to at-risk communities in the Bay Area through their “You Are Not Alone” program, and continue biweekly distributions with donations from the Emeryville Citizens Assistance Program and Second Harvest Food Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Zakat Foundation of America and regional mosques and organizations in collaboration with Oakland’s oldest mosque, Masjidul Waritheen, distributed over 35,000 pounds of fresh produce to support food-insecure families in East Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California provided over 850 hot meals to its unsheltered community during the pandemicⁱ, and created a COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund for its community members; and

WHEREAS, Eating Rights of MU'EEED in collaboration with Neighborly Hands has provided hundreds of hot meals and bi-weekly groceries to the elderly and inner-city families in Oakland who have been impacted by COVID 19; and

WHEREAS, the Northern California Islamic Council has coordinated food and financial assistance, launched the “Threads of Resistance” program with over 100 volunteers sewing over 2,700 face masks and delivering them to various locations to help those on the front line, and developed a unified plan and guidelines for mosques to reopen; and

WHEREAS, Bay Area mosques and organizations are committed to standing for justice against systematic racism and in solidarity with the Black community and Black families whose loved ones have been murdered through state-sanctioned violence, and have taken action by organizing the for Day of Outrage and Muslims Roll-Out Against Police Violence, marching in protests, speaking at council hearings, issuing statements, and delivering sermons discussing anti-Blackness inside and outside our communities; 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: that the City of Oakland does hereby recognize the California State Designation of August 2020 as American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month ([HR 99](#)), to acknowledge the rich history, contributions, and guiding virtues of American 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.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
Acting City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California