

## **Proclamation**

### **American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, American Muslims contribute greatly to charitable organizations that help people from all faiths and backgrounds in Garden Grove, California, the United States, and around the world by providing medical assistance, family services, scholastic supplies, before- and after-school programs, food aid, and emergency/disaster relief efforts;

WHEREAS, The city of Garden Grove is home to a mosque, Islamic school, Muslim based and operated community organizations, and several prominent Muslim figures who continue to make significant contributions to the city and the State as business owners, legal professionals, doctors, engineers, teachers, farmers, civil rights leaders, humanitarians, athletes, and in many other great, notable capacities;

WHEREAS, Council on American-Islamic Relations, California (CAIR-CA), headquartered in Orange County, is the largest Muslim legal services and advocacy organization in the United States and has been a valued partner organization within Garden Grove, Orange County, and California on issues related to the Census, emergency response, pandemic relief, and responding to incidents of hate, and providing civil rights and immigration services to Muslim, immigrant, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. In the past 18 months, CAIR's Greater Los Angeles office (CAIR-LA) has partnered with local Garden Grove organizations to host legal clinics for Afghan refugees and to organize COVID-19 vaccine efforts with public health officials;

WHEREAS, Islamic Society of Orange County (ISOC) is one of the largest mosques in California and a hub for a community of over 7,000 people. ISOC provides the community with a range of programs including youth mentorship, civic engagement seminars, and cultural festivals. ISOC has served as a vital center during the pandemic for essential services and resources, including food aid, COVID-19 testing, and vaccinations. The mosque served as host of a legal clinic that served 100+ Afghan arrivals who are seeking to settle down in the Orange County area;

WHEREAS, Orange Crescent School (OCS) in Garden Grove was founded in 1983 by the Islamic Society of Orange County (ISOC). Years later, OCS is one of the largest Islamic schools in Orange County, existing as a non-profit and serving the diverse Muslim community in Orange County. The students of OCS are empowered and taught to have positive self-identity as Muslim Americans, so that they can become civically engaged members in their local communities;

WHEREAS, Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi holds a PhD in comparative religion from Harvard University and serves as the Religious Director of the Islamic Society of Orange County (ISOC). Throughout the years, Dr. Siddiqi has been influential in the Orange County community and given lectures at different colleges and religious

institutions in over 28 countries. Dr. Siddiqi is a frequent participant in interfaith events within Orange County and all around the country. Through these events, Dr. Siddiqi continues to build relationships and mutual understanding between the Muslim community and other communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to acknowledge and promote awareness of the myriad of invaluable contributions of American Muslims in Garden Grove, and extend to them the respect and camaraderie every American deserves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the City Council of the City of Garden Grove does hereby celebrate and recognize August 2022 to be American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month in the City of Garden Grove.