

## **Proclamation**

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

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

WHEREAS, Garden Grove is home to the Islamic Society of Orange County (ISOC), one of the largest Muslim Centers in the Western Hemisphere established in 1976 that includes a Mosque and Islamic school, as well as a community of Muslim based and operated community organizations and several prominent Muslim figures who continue to make significant contributions as business owners, legal professionals, doctors, engineers, teachers, farmers, civil rights leaders, humanitarians, athletes, and in many other notable capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi serves as the Religious Director of ISOC who holds a PhD in Comparative Religion from Harvard University. A frequent participant of interfaith events, and an influential worldwide lecturer, Dr. Siddiqi continues to build relationships and mutual understanding between the Muslim community and other communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, ISOC founded the Orange Crescent School (OCS) in Garden Grove in 1983, which is one of the largest Islamic schools in Orange County. Students are empowered and taught positive self-identity as Muslim Americans and encouraged to be involved with civic engagement to the benefit of their local communities; and

WHEREAS, ISOC serves over 7,000 people and provides 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 and has served as host of a legal clinic for 100+ Afghan arrivals seeking to settle in Orange County; and

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 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; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to acknowledge and promote awareness of the myriad of invaluable contributions of American Muslims, 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 2023 to be American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month in the City of Garden Grove.

September 12, 2023