

CITY COUNCIL**The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE February 6, 2024NUMBER 48-2024**TITLE: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MUSLIM HERITAGE MONTH.**
(Sponsored by Council Member Quantavia Hilbert)

WHEREAS, the City of Orange takes great pride in the diverse religious and cultural traditions of its residents which includes those of Muslim Americans; and

WHEREAS, Muslims are the world's second largest religious group, with 1.9 billion adherents, representing approximately 25 percent of the world's population; and

WHEREAS, Muslims have made significant contributions that shape our world, including notable achievements in philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine, architecture, music, literature, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, the 3.45 million Muslims in the United States come from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, including immigrants and native-born Americans, and represent approximately 1.1 percent of the country's population; and

WHEREAS, the history of Muslims in the United States dates back to before the country's founding, originating with enslaved Africans, of whom scholars estimate as many as 30 percent were Muslim, who brought Islamic beliefs and practices with them and contributed in numerous ways to the founding of the nation, including courageous and dedicated military service in every major war from the American Revolutionary War until today; and

WHEREAS, successive waves of Muslim immigrants from all over the world have enriched American society; and

WHEREAS, Muslim Americans strive to promote peace and mutual understanding between all faiths and identities, while upholding the values and principles of Islam and those of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 300,000 Muslim Americans in New Jersey, representing one of the largest Muslim American populations of any state in the United States, including numerous current and former elected officials dedicated to public service in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the people of the City of Orange benefit from the social benevolence, patriotism, philanthropy, humanitarianism, advocacy, civic engagement, culture, and business of Muslim Americans and Muslim American organizations that operate within the State; and

WHEREAS, incidents of anti-Muslim violence and rhetoric are still prevalent in our State and educational initiatives are critical to combatting bigotry; and

WHEREAS, the City of Orange recognizes the positive impact Muslims have made, and continue to make, to the advancement of this State and the nation, and believes it is appropriate to acknowledge and promote awareness and appreciation of the invaluable contributions of Muslim Americans; now, therefore,

WHEREAS, in 2023 a joint resolution was passed by the State legislature designating the month of January as "Muslim Heritage Month"; and


A. M. Hilbert

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Orange Township that January is hereby recognized as Muslim Heritage Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Orange Township hereby encourages the public to learn more about the contributions of Muslim Americans and to take part in programs celebrating Muslim Heritage Month in the coming years.

Adopted: February 6, 2024

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President