



# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

### IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN MUSLIM APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

August 2024

**WHEREAS**, the City of Albany 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, contributing to the construction of the nation and advancement of the civil rights movement; and

**WHEREAS**, over 90,000 Muslims live in Alameda County<sup>1</sup>, and make innumerable contributions to the cultural, political, and economic fabric and well-being of California and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023 the Council on American-Islamic Relations received 607 complaints of hate crimes or hate incidents, a 419% increase from the previous year, and over 8,000 complaints total, the highest-ever in its 30-year history; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the UC Berkeley Muslim Student Association Community Services and Political Action committees have successfully been awarded \$328,000 in grants to help expand the Bear Pantry to better serve the over 3,000 residents of UC Village; and

**WHEREAS**, the A2Z Foundation was established in 2014 to serve the Bay Area community by improving access to healthcare and expanded their services to provide over 35,000 pounds of food, including fresh produce and shelf stable items to Albany families; and

**WHEREAS**, Brother Abdul-Jalil al-Hakim and Brother Belal Salih Esa were instrumental in supporting the Albany community as part of the Aaron and Margaret Wallace Foundation, providing food, hygiene supplies, and hot meals to residents of Albany and the Bay Area; and

**WHEREAS**, Brother Belal Salih Esa tragically lost his life on September 19, 2022 to senseless gun violence, but has left a legacy of support for underserved communities through his service, family, and loved ones; and

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**WHEREAS**, Albany resident Taliah Mirmalek, a civil rights activist and lawyer, has advocated for workers, tenants, and immigrants in Albany and surrounding communities by offering pro bono services at the Centro Legal de La Raza's Workers and Tenants Rights Clinic in Oakland, the Afghan Humanitarian Parole Project, and the East Bay Community Law Center's Immigration Clinic in Berkeley, as well as co-founding Law Students for Radical Real Estate the Free the Land Project, and played an active role in the Afghan Humanitarian Parole Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Albany has elected Muslim Americans to lead our community, including current Albany School Board Member Sadia Khan - who has facilitated advocacy in numerous ways for housing and educational equity for families in Albany; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to acknowledge and promote awareness of the myriads 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 PROCLAIMED**, the Albany City Council does hereby recognize the California State Designation of August 2024 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.

Date: September 3, 2024

*City of Albany Proclamation No. 2024-15*



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JOHN MIKI, MAYOR