

RES 17-037

Wilmington, Delaware
May 18, 2017

#4366

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Guy

WHEREAS, Islam is one of the World's major religions and part of our shared human heritage; and

WHEREAS, the history of people of the Muslim faith includes some of the greatest, most advanced and innovative societies in the history of human existence; and

WHEREAS, from the early days of the pioneers to our present day leaders, Muslims have played a significant role in the history of Wilmington's economic, cultural, spiritual and political development; and

WHEREAS, there are several thousand Muslim residents in Wilmington contributing to its economy, social fabric and multicultural and pluralistic traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Muslim residents of Wilmington, with their hard work and contributions to medicine, science, information technology, education, and many other fields, have benefited from and enriched the open, tolerant and economically vibrant environment of Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, Muslims annually celebrate two religious holidays, Eid Al-Fitr after the holy month of fasting in Ramadan, and Eid al-Adha, during the pilgrimage of Haj; and

WHEREAS, in accord with the sentiments of former President of the United States Barack Obama, "Ramadan is a time to reflect spiritually, build communally, and aid those in need. While Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, it marks a new beginning for each individual – a reason to celebrate and express gratitude on this holiday"; and

WHEREAS, during the two Eids, all people are encouraged to reflect on past successes and challenges of Muslims and look to the future to continue to improve our society so that we live up to ideals of freedom, equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, Wilmington recognizes the celebration of both Muslim holidays henceforth as part and parcel of our City's religious and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, City Council extends best regards to Muslims in Wilmington, and throughout the world who celebrate Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha; and

WHEREAS, as these holidays are celebrated, this community must remember the critical importance of the respect that is to be accorded to all faiths and beliefs as reflected in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution that "prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion, impeding the free exercise of religion..."; and

WHEREAS, City Council recommends that schools and employers in Wilmington extend religious accommodations in accordance with existing law to the many Muslims students in schools and Muslim workers throughout our City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Wilmington City Council does hereby recognize the fast approaching Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha in Wilmington, Delaware.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Wilmington City Council encourages all Wilmington residents to recognize the collective ingenuity, creativity, cultures and traditions of Muslims and commit ourselves to raise awareness and appreciation of the two Eids and the programs, ceremonies and activities associated therewith.

Passed by City Council,
May 18, 2017

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 3rd
day of May, 2017.

Sanya Dhatnagar
Assistant City Solicitor