



# City of Mount Rainier Proclamation Recognition and Celebration of April as Arab American Heritage Month

**WHEREAS**, The City of Mount Rainier is proud to Honor the history, culture, heritage and contributions of Arab Americans in our community, throughout Maryland and our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, The month of April is nationally recognized and celebrated as Arab American Heritage Month since 2017.

**WHEREAS**: This year's theme is: "**Honoring the Past, inspiring the Future,**" reflects and celebrates the Arab American community's historical legacy, recognizing the present generation and inspiring the next generation of leaders; and

**WHEREAS**: For over a century, the Arab American community has been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect in key roles in the advancement in the multiple field of studies including and not limited to the Arts, Culture, Science, Math, Politics, History, Business, Music, Sports, Medicine, Economic Development, Education, Agriculture, Literature, Dance, High Technology, Military Service and Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the history of Arab Americans in the US at times remains neglected or defaced by misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate, which must be combated in the forms of education and awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arab community brought with them to US their resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed that have added strength to our great democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arab community and their descents since migrating to US have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples of model citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Mount Rainier will continue to work towards becoming an inclusive city in which all the community—past, present and future—are respected and that the Arab American community is recognized for their contributions to our city, country and the world; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, I, Celina Benitez, Mayor of the City of Mount Rainier do hereby proclaim April as Arab American Heritage Month in the City of Mount Rainier and every year from today on The City of Mount Rainier; and urge all our citizens to celebrate Arab American Community heritage and culture and continue our efforts year around to create a world that is more just, peaceful, equitable and prosperous for all and stand up for injustice, voting rights, oppression and protection of Human and Civil Rights.

*Celina R. Benitez*

Honorable Mayor Celina R. Benitez  
City of Mount Rainier, MD  
April 3, 2025