



ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- WHEREAS,** the United States is home to a great diversity of Arab American communities including people from Arabic-speaking regions throughout North Africa and the Middle East; and
- WHEREAS,** more than half of Arab Americans have ancestry in what is now Lebanon, Egypt, and Syria, and numerous major religions are represented including Catholic, Muslim, Orthodox Christian, and Protestant; and
- WHEREAS,** Arab Americans now represent more than 3 million Americans and make invaluable contributions to all aspects of American society including medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, and culture; and
- WHEREAS,** California has the largest Arab American population in the United States and Berkeley is home Arab American families and students as well as to many businesses owned by Arab Americans, and Zaytuna College, the first accredited Muslim undergraduate college in the United States, is located in Berkeley; and
- WHEREAS,** the celebration of Arab American Heritage Month shines a light on the diverse and vibrant Arab American communities of the United States, educating all Americans about Arab culture and heritage, dispelling misconceptions, and countering harmful stereotypes; and
- WHEREAS,** Arab Americans bring resilient family values, a strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and traditions that add strength to our democracy; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Berkeley joins President Biden and communities across the United States to honor and celebrate the immeasurable contributions of Arab Americans to our nation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby declare April 2024 as

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in the City of Berkeley.

Jesse Arreguin
Mayor



May 7, 2024