

Whereas, on April 29, 2023 Governor Murphy signed a joint resolution by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey designating the month of January of each year as Muslim American Heritage Month and the Borough wishes to recognize this event; and

Whereas, Watchung is proud to be the home of a growing Muslim American community that plays an essential role in forming and enriching the unique character of our community; and

Whereas, Islam is the world's second largest religious group, with 1.9 billion devotees worldwide and about 3.5 million in the United States, with nearly 300,000 Muslim Americans in New Jersey; and

Whereas, across the world, there is a vibrant Muslim community and by celebrating Muslim American Heritage, we not only honor the past, but also pave the way for a future where diversity is embraced, accepted and respected, and the legacy of all communities is recognized; and

Whereas, Muslim Americans are strong contributors to economic sectors and have particularly excelled in the areas of medicine, law, business, education, politics, government, military service, technology, science and culture and arts; and

Whereas, Watchung 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 individual contributions of Muslim Americans.

Whereas, this proclamation is a significant step, and it serves as a reminder that discrimination and hate have no place in Watchung;

Now therefore, I, Ronald Jubin, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, along with Members of the Council, do hereby recognize the month of January, 2024 as

Muslim Heritage Month

Ronald Jubin, Ph.D. Mayor February 1, 2024