



Legislation Text

File #: RES 24-478, **Version:** 1

Commemorating the observance of Ramadan 2024 and the significance to Muslims in Saint Paul.

WHEREAS, Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, is a period of fasting, reflection, devotion, generosity, and sacrifice observed by Muslims around the world, including those in our diverse city of Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, this holy month commemorates the revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad, a guide for personal spiritual growth, social justice, and the welfare of society; and

WHEREAS, during Ramadan, Muslims in Saint Paul engage in a fast from dawn to sunset, deep contemplation of their faith, increased charitable giving, and community involvement, embodying the values of empathy, community service, and interfaith harmony; and

WHEREAS, the Muslim community in Saint Paul has significantly contributed to the cultural, economic, social, and spiritual livelihood of our city, enriching our community's diversity through their cultural traditions, values, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul is one of the most multicultural places in the world and is home to ethnically and racially diverse Muslim communities from around the world whose faith is welcome here; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of Ramadan fosters an environment of communal support and solidarity, encouraging members of the Muslim community in Saint Paul to volunteer, support local charities, and engage in acts of kindness that benefit the less fortunate, underscoring the deep-rooted Islamic principles of compassion and community service; and

WHEREAS, Mosques around the city can celebrate this Ramadan, and every day with the centuries old call to prayer observed by Muslims around the world; and

WHEREAS, Muslims worship extensively throughout the night in the last 10 nights of Ramadan, seeking Laylat al-Qadr ('the Night of Decree'), which is considered the holiest night in the Islamic calendar and believed to be when the Quran was first revealed; and

WHEREAS, Ramadan commenced at dusk on Sunday, March 10th and will last for a lunar month; and

WHEREAS, Eid Al-Fitr, an annual celebration of breaking the fast, which is one of the most celebrated holidays for Muslims across the world, commences immediately after the last night of Ramadan, marked by special prayers, feasting, and the giving of Zakat al-Fitr (charity given to the poor) to ensure that all can celebrate the joyous occasion; and

WHEREAS, Eid Al-Fitr brings together people of various backgrounds for prayers, feasts, and communal gatherings, fostering a spirit of unity and mutual respect among all residents as well as gratitude for the strength and patience practiced throughout the holy month; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Saint Paul City Council recognizes and commemorate the month of Ramadan, which began on the evening of Sunday March 10th and will conclude on the evening of Tuesday April 9th, 2024, as a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and heightened devotion for Muslim Americans in Saint Paul; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is dedicated to Islamic organizations in Saint Paul in recognition of their spiritual leadership and contributions to the community and to enhance awareness and appreciation of the rich cultural

and religious diversity in our city.