Wayne County Commissioners declare April as Arab American Heritage Month

Wayne County Commissioners on Tuesday, April 14, unanimously approved a resolution by Commissioners Sam Baydoun (D-Dearborn) and Al Haidous (D-Wayne) recognizing April as Arab American Heritage Month, honoring the county’s Arab American population and its many contributions.

This year’s commemoration is especially important because of the contributions made by Arab American doctors, nurses, first responders and others in the fight to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, the sponsors said.

“There are thousands of Arab American doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, EMS, police and fire and all essential workers who are putting their lives on the line to fight this invisible enemy, and I would like to take this time to celebrate all of them,” Commissioner Baydoun said.

The resolution notes that Arab Americans have been coming to the U.S. for more than a century, “in search of a destination that would provide greater economic, political and religious freedom” and building a stronger nation through their “family values… vibrant work ethic… (and) dedication to education.”

Metropolitan Detroit, including Wayne County, is home to one of the largest concentrations of Arab Americans in any region of the U.S.
RESOLUTION

By Commissioners Baydoun and Haidous

WHEREAS, since Arab-Americans began immigrating to the United States late in the 1800s, they have been making valuable contributions to every aspect of American society, including medicine, law, business, education, civic engagement and military service; and

WHEREAS, Arab-Americans migrated to the United States in search of a destination that would provide greater economic, political and religious freedom, and have since shared their rich culture and traditions with their neighbors, colleagues and friends while setting examples as model citizens and public servants; and

WHEREAS, Arab-Americans brought to America strong family values, a vibrant work ethic, dedication to education and diversity in faith that has strengthened our democracy and join all Americans in their desire to produce a peaceful and diverse society; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and heritage of Arab-Americans have helped to build a stronger nation and enriched society by sharing the entrepreneurial American spirit that makes the United States free and prosperous; and

WHEREAS, Wayne County is home to the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States, who have become a vital and valued part of the population and inspiring the next generation to improve their lifestyles even greater.

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission on this 14th day of April, 2020 recognizes the decades of contributions from the Arab-American community in Wayne County, the state of Michigan and the United States, and proclaims April 2020 as Arab American Heritage Month and acknowledges their efforts that make Wayne County vibrant and diverse.