

Office of the Mayor



# Proclamation

## MUSLIM HERITAGE MONTH - JANUARY 2025

**Whereas**, there are an estimated 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide, approximately 3.45 million Muslim Americans who live across the nation, and New Jersey ranks number one in the nation in the percentage of its population that is Muslim; and

**Whereas**, Muslims have been part and parcel of this nation since before its founding. This includes Muslim explorers and settlers and at least one-quarter of the slaves brought to this country claimed the Muslim faith. In addition, several waves of immigration have bolstered the Muslim population by bringing Muslims to America from all over the world; and

**Whereas**, the Muslim community in New Jersey is relatively large and thriving. There are many Muslim private schools, Halal certified restaurants and grocery stores, community centers, youth groups that cater to Muslims and, of course, mosques; and

**Whereas**, the Township of Monroe is home to a significant Muslim American population who represent widely diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds; and

**Whereas**, Monroe Township's Muslims actively engage in charitable and public service individually and institutionally. The Muslim community is an integral part of the Monroe Township community; and

**Whereas**, the Township of Monroe and our nation have greatly benefited from Muslim Americans, especially through their rich cultures and traditions. Muslim Americans share their strong family values, dedication to education, generosity in charitable giving, devotion to public service, diversity in faith and creed that add strength to our democracy; and

**Whereas**, Muslims in America continue to be a subject of anti-Muslim hate and Islamophobia. This hate has risen to historic heights and sadly contributes to harassment, bullying and intimidation in workplaces, in our schools and in other public and private spheres.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that I, STEPHEN DALINA**, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim **January as Muslim Heritage Month** and encourage our citizens to join this special observance in the Township of Monroe.

Dated: January 1, 2025

  
Stephen Dalina, Mayor