



ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR  
**Jerry L. Demings**

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Greetings:

***It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to Arab America Foundation's Connect Arab America: Empowerment Summit in Orange County, Florida!***

The Arab American community has had a significant impact on Florida and Orange County. They have been a part of Florida's diverse population for over 150 years and have made valuable contributions. Recently, I had the privilege of declaring April 2023 as National Arab American Heritage Month in Orange County through a special proclamation.

I commend the foundation's efforts to empower Arab Americans, promote Arab culture and identity, and foster connections between Arab American communities across the nation and Orange County. In light of the recent NAACP travel advisory, I appreciate your consultation with local authorities and groups in Orange County to address concerns related to marginalized groups in our state.

Please be assured that our community values diversity and embraces inclusion. Hate is never welcome here. Orange County is a caring, compassionate, and welcoming community open to learning and connecting with others. On behalf of the more than 1.5 million residents who call Orange County home, we value your decision to select our community as your conference destination.

Once again, welcome, and I wish you all the best for a successful summit!

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Demings  
Orange County Mayor