

# PROCLAMATION

The City of Philadelphia is a strong proponent of its diversity and large ethnic populations. As the first World Heritage City in the country, Philadelphia is a leader to the rest of the nation in how people of different cultures who emigrated here from different parts of the world can live and thrive alongside each other. A key to creating a truly vibrant diverse community is to encourage all residents to express and showcase their own culture, and reach out to others to educate them about their heritage. The City of Philadelphia is proud of its many ethnic organizations that work with their members to celebrate their uniquely individual backgrounds.

The month of April Arab American Heritage Month, which was designated by Congress in 2017 and is an opportune time to formally recognize and celebrate the heritage and culture of Arab Americans and their contributions to our country. Throughout the month of April cultural institutions, school districts, public servants, Arab Americans, and others will engage in special events that celebrate our community's rich heritage and numerous contributions to American society in areas such as medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, and more.

As a City we work to communicate with our strong Arab-American community and address any problems that may arise. Though people of Arab descent have had to face misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate through crimes and speech, the City of Philadelphia has recommitted its resources and mission to protect and fight for the safeguards of all Philadelphians and their right to celebrate and promote their virtuous heritages.

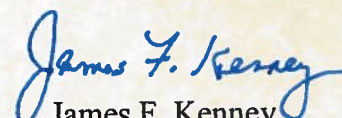
Arab Americans have shared their rich culture and traditions with their neighbors and friends, including many strong values such as dedication to family, worth ethic, education, and diversity in faith and creed that have strengthened our democracy and helped us build a better nation.

## THEREFORE...

I, James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2019 to be

## ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in Philadelphia, and urge all residents to recognize the great impact our Arab-American community has had on our City and welcome our immigrants from Arab nations who are making a new home in our City of Philadelphia.

  
James F. Kenney  
Mayor

Given under my hand and the seal of the City of Philadelphia on this first day of April, two thousand and nineteen

