

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SAN JOSE DENOUNCING ISLAMOPHOBIA**

**WHEREAS**, Islam is a major world religion based on peace, charity, and community, with 2 billion adherents worldwide and approximately 3.5 to 6 million Muslims in the United States, comprising 1-2% of the total United States population; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 250,000 Muslims live in the San Francisco Bay Area and make up at least 3.5% of the population and are represented in all aspects of the community, professions, and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, San José is home to thousands of Muslims and several mosques including Evergreen Islamic Center, South Bay Islamic Association, and Blossom Valley Muslim Community Center; and

**WHEREAS**, Islamophobia is anti-Muslim racism in various societal institutions that continues to promote negative images of Islam and Muslims; it is connected to other racisms, including anti-Black racism, antisemitism, and other forms of bigotry; and

**WHEREAS**, historic and recent events and attitudes expressed in the United States have spotlighted a critical misunderstanding of Islam and its teachings, and highlighted the erroneous conflation of a particular country's civil and human rights abuses with the teachings of Islam; and

**WHEREAS**, discriminatory government policies such as the 2017 travel ban have singled out Muslims based on a view of them as all being a security threat; and

**WHEREAS**, misrepresentations of Muslims have portrayed Muslims as sexist, oppressive and violent in Hollywood, video games, literature, and education resources; and

**WHEREAS**, organized hate groups against Muslims and other targeted groups have increased in recent years due to structural racism; and

**WHEREAS**, Muslims are an invaluable part of San José and Silicon Valley due to their contributions to the high-technology sector, and numerous Muslim-owned businesses and start-ups which contribute to the Bay Area economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Muslims continue to be the victims of Islamophobia with 68% of Muslim Americans saying they have experienced Islamophobia and of these, 76% experienced it recently:

- Muslim women report higher rates (77%);
  - 94% report that Islamophobia affects their emotional and mental well-being;
  - 88% censor speech or actions out of fear of how people might react to them, with Muslim women reporting a higher rate (92%);
  - 51% of Muslim families nationally say that their child was bullied for their faith;
- and

**WHEREAS**, Muslims experience higher levels of religious discrimination than any other group, with 62% of Muslim Americans reporting religious discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, Islamophobic campaigns across the country have opposed the building of new mosques in recent years and mosques nationwide have been vandalized, including in California; and

**WHEREAS**, hate crimes against all marginalized groups increased in 2020 to the highest level since 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects freedom of religion, and it is the responsibility of the government to protect citizens and uphold their civil rights; and

**WHEREAS**, diversity, inclusivity and equity are values shared by the City of San José.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE THAT:

Stands in solidarity with its Muslim communities, upholding their safety and rights, and condemns any bigotry, bias, or acts of violence against them, especially acts that are predicated on religious intolerance. We are committed to fighting ignorance with education, to meeting inaction with action, creating safe spaces for fostering understanding, and implementing policies promoting cultural competency, awareness and appreciation of Islam and our Muslim communities.

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ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

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SAM LICCARDO  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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TONI J. TABER, CMC  
City Clerk