

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

April 20, 2009

CALL TO PODIUM:

Samira Hussein-MCA Committee Member and
Sawsan Darwish-Teacher at Montgomery Blair High School

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Crystal Carr

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:
Proclamation of the Mayor and City Council Designating April 2009, as “Arab-American Heritage Month” in the City of Gaithersburg

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:
<p>The City of Gaithersburg recognizes Arab-Americans throughout the month of April, which offers the opportunity to learn and appreciate the culture, history and contributions of our Arab American neighbors.</p> <p>The Arab world is culturally rich, complex and diverse: encompassing 22 countries; three monotheistic world religions; divergent political loyalties and worldviews; as well as differences of locality, region, kinship and social class. The Arab world is cosmopolitan, not an isolated and insulated culture. In the 2000 Census, 1.2 million Americans of Arab descent were identified; however, the Arab-American community estimates reach more than 3 million. Arab Americans have been a part of American society since the American Revolution, and have played prominent roles in governmental leadership, business and industry, the professions, education, culture, the arts, and public affairs. This evening we recognize the Arab American influence in enhancing democratic values, material prosperity, and cultural richness of the country.</p> <p>In honor and recognition of the month, Arab Americans of Montgomery County and the City of Gaithersburg’s Multicultural Affairs Committee will host the Arab American Heritage Cultural Festival on May 3rd from 12 – 4 p.m. at the Bohrer Park Activity Center. The festival will have an array of family activities including poetry readings, dance and musical performances, middle-eastern food, traditional clothing, henna, calligraphy, and door prizes. Please come out and enjoy the celebration.</p> <p>This year’s proclamation will be accepted by Sawsan Darwish, who teaches English as a Second Language and the Arabic language at Montgomery Blair High School. She has lived in Gaithersburg for the past 15 years and the mother of two (2) daughters. Both of her daughters graduated from Gaithersburg High School and are now attending the University of Maryland.</p>

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Receive Arab American Heritage Month Presentation and Issue Proclamation.