

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BAKER, BOK, BREADON, LARA, LOUIJUENE, MEJIA, MURPHY, FLAHERTY, WORRELL AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION TO COMMENCE
MAKING EID AL-FITR A HOLIDAY
RECOGNIZED BY THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, We are incredibly fortunate to live in a cosmopolitan city with a great variety of people and cultures; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite this, there are still many occasions when not all of our peoples' deeply held beliefs, religious holidays, and spiritual practices are equally regarded and acknowledged by the municipal establishment of the commonwealth; *and*

WHEREAS, That, on one hand, we celebrate diversity, while, on the other hand, there remain vestiges of social, religious, and cultural exclusion and marginalization directed toward wide swaths of our community members; *and*

WHEREAS, With this in mind, I wish to speak of Eid al-Fitr. Eid al-Fitr is a tremendously significant day within Islam, and is one of two official holidays in the faith. This day is celebrated by Muslims worldwide because it constitutes the end of Ramadan, and the month long dawn to sunset fast that accompanies it; *and*

WHEREAS, That it originates from the Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him, who remarked that Allah, God, fixed two days of festivities: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha; *and*

WHEREAS, That, because of this, Eid al-Fitr is a day of enormous meaning to Muslims, both for its historical impact and for the ongoing centrality it has within the faith; *and*

WHEREAS, That, considering this centrality, I propose that Eid al-Fitr be recognized as a city wide holiday beginning in the year 2023; *and*

WHEREAS, That, not only is this the correct action from a standpoint of moral consistency and decency, but that it makes also sense from a practical point of view; *and*

WHEREAS, The Muslim Population is a growing one, at the local, national and international levels. There are around 80,000 Muslims in the greater Boston area, and nearly 3.5 Million Muslim Americans in the United States, and it is estimated that Islam is expected to become the second most practiced religion in the U.S by 2050; *and*

WHEREAS, That, in the global realm, there are 1.8 billion Muslims, second only to the 2.3 billion Christians, and that by 2060, it is predicted that there will be an even amount of followers of both faiths; *and*

WHEREAS, That such statistics clearly explicate that Islam is one of the world's leading religions, with significant roots at the local, state, national, and international levels; *and*

WHEREAS, That, as such, its tenets, holidays, and festivities deserve to be honored and acknowledged along the same lines as its great religious counterparts; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges the City of Boston to recognize Eid al-Fitr as a municipal holiday commencing in the year 2023.

Filed: April 22, 2022