

P R O C L A M A T I O N
ARAB-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
APRIL 2025

WHEREAS, according to the Arab American Institute, there are more than 3.7 million Arab Americans living in the United States, including more than 181,000 in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans in our country come from a variety of nations, cultures and faith backgrounds, and from one of 22 Arabic-speaking countries, infusing resilient values, strong work ethic, dedication to education and diversity; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of Oak Park is a constant source of strength and enrichment for our community and this month we recognize and celebrate the vibrant Arab American community, its history, culture and achievement in Oak Park and around the country; and

WHEREAS, proclaiming Arab-American Heritage Month in Oak Park serves to promote understanding, appreciation and respect for the contributions and experiences of Arab-American people, while also celebrating their heritage, culture and successes; and

WHEREAS, while Arab American Heritage Month occurs during April, we recognize the rich culture shared by Arab Americans makes a positive impact in our community throughout the entire year; and

WHEREAS, we take time to pause and reflect on the pain being felt by Arab Americans and Arabs around the world as a result of the ongoing conflict in Gaza. We know the gravity of the situation affects many around the globe; and

WHEREAS, we continue to affirm and uplift the voices in our community who call for unity, understanding, and justice in the face of ongoing global and local challenges. As we observe Arab American Heritage Month, we recognize the importance of coming together in solidarity and

compassion, fostering a space where empathy, open dialogue, and cultural appreciation guide our efforts to build a more inclusive and peaceful society—both here in Oak Park and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park is proud to celebrate Arab American Heritage Month with a community event on April 27, 2025, honoring the rich cultural traditions, history, and contributions of Arab Americans; this celebration will feature an array of educational and cultural experiences, including live music, traditional dance, food, henna art, calligraphy, and cultural displays, reflecting the vibrancy and diversity of the Arab American community and fostering greater understanding and inclusion throughout the Village; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Oak Park supports the celebration of Arab-American Heritage Month, and **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim April as the month of our Arab-American Heritage Month celebration and encourage all residents to join us in embracing the enrichment that their cultures bring to our lives. Let us come together as a community to celebrate Arab-American Heritage Month, honoring our shared values of inclusivity and cultural appreciation.

DATED this 18th day of March, 2025.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk