



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## Legislation Details (With Text)

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### Agenda Summary

Proclaiming April 2024 to be Arab American Heritage Month.

### Official Text

Proclamation

Whereas: for over a century, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of society: in medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, culture; and

Whereas: since migrating to the United States, people of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples of model citizens and public servants; and

Whereas: they brought with them to the U.S. their resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed that have added strength to our great democracy; and

Whereas: Arab Americans have also enriched our society by sharing in the entrepreneurial American spirit that makes our nation free and prosperous; and

Whereas: the history of Arab Americans in the U.S. remains neglected or defaced by misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate in the forms of crimes and speech; and

Whereas: issues, such as civil rights abuses, harmful stereotyping, and bullying must be combated in the forms of education and awareness; and

Whereas: they join all Americans in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe; and

Whereas: the City of Somerville stands against all forms of hate including Anti-Arab bias and Islamophobia

and is committed to standing with Arab Americans residents of Somerville and the Commonwealth; and

Whereas: the incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better nation; and

Whereas: although this proclamation comes later than desired, the municipality deems it essential to formally recognize and celebrate Arab American Heritage Month, thereby acknowledging the significant impact of Arab American culture, history, and accomplishments;

Now therefore be it known to all those present that the Mayor of the City of Somerville respectfully proclaims  
April 2024 to be Arab American Heritage Month.

Proclaimed on this 23rd day of May, 2024 by

Katjana Ballantyne  
Mayor