WHEREAS, freedom of religion holds a distinction as a cherished right and a value upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, enriched by the unparalleled diversity of its residents, Santa Clara County takes great pride in supporting individual religious freedoms and is strengthened by the many varied religious, political, and cultural traditions and contributions of its diverse population, including those Americans who practice Islam; and

WHEREAS, Muslims have been part of U.S. history from the beginning, have contributed to the production of wealth and construction of the nation, and have served in our Armed Forces; they are also part of the rich history of the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, the earliest Muslim immigrants to California primarily worked in the fields and made significant contributions to early agricultural efforts; and

WHEREAS, Muslims in Santa Clara County reflect the diversity of the world: 67% of Bay Area Muslims speak at least three languages and over 71% speak a language other than English; and

WHEREAS, Muslim Americans are teachers, lawyers, doctors, social workers, nurses, and business owners among numerous other valued professions, as well as peace builders, activists, entrepreneurs, and politicians; and

WHEREAS, Muslim Americans within California and throughout the nation strive to promote peace and understanding between all faiths, identities, and nationalities and extend to them the respect and camaraderie every American deserves;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara does hereby proclaim August 2016 as

**Muslim Awareness and Appreciation Month**

to respectfully acknowledge the rich history, contributions, and guiding virtues of Muslim Americans and to commend all Muslim communities in California for the lasting positive impact they have made toward the advancement of our county and country.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this Thirtieth Day of August, Two Thousand and Sixteen by unanimous vote.