



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Islam is one of the world's major religions, with over two billion Muslims across the globe, and is an integral part of our shared human heritage; and
- WHEREAS,** the Muslim community in Merced reflects the City's cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity, with Muslim residents, families, students, and workers contributing meaningfully to Merced's social, educational, civic, agricultural, and economic life; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Merced is committed to fostering an inclusive, welcoming, and respectful environment for residents of all faiths by recognizing religious observances and promoting civic engagement, mutual understanding, and community unity; and
- WHEREAS,** Muslim Americans have played a vital role in the history and development of the United States, making significant contributions in agriculture, education, medicine, science, business, public service, and civic leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, is observed by Muslims worldwide as a period of fasting, prayer, self-reflection, and increased acts of charity, reinforcing values of compassion, generosity, self-discipline, and service to others; and
- WHEREAS,** the observance of Ramadan in 2026 is expected to begin at sunset on February 18, 2026, and to continue for one lunar month, during which Muslims fast daily from dawn until sunset; and
- WHEREAS,** Merced's Muslim community actively contributes to the well-being of the broader community through charitable efforts, volunteer service, interfaith engagement, food distribution, and community-building initiatives that strengthen social cohesion and collective care; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW SERRATTO, Mayor of the City of Merced, on behalf of the City Council hereby recognizes the observance of and out of respect for the holy month of Ramadan, the City of Merced formally recognizes this sacred time and extends its respect and best wishes to Muslims in Merced and around the world.

Signed this 17th day of February 2026.

Matthew Serratto, Mayor of Merced