THE COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK
Proclamation

WHEREAS: In celebration of Eid ul-Fitr, the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor LaGuardia Community College (CUNY) and everyone who contributed to the “Beyond Sacred” project; and

WHEREAS: This Eid ul-Fitr Celebration provides a special opportunity to reflect upon the extraordinary contributions that Muslims make in New York City and across nation. Throughout Ramadan, they have demonstrated their commitment to contemplation and their profound generosity to others less fortunate than themselves as they pray, abstain and fast. On this occasion, as we break bread and wish everyone “Eid Mubarak,” we pay special tribute to Muslims who are breaking down barriers between people of all faiths and strengthening our City today through their own endeavors; and

WHEREAS: In this respect we salute the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center of the New York City’s LaGuardia Community College, the College’s president Dr. Gall O. Mellow, the Managing Director of the Arts Center Stephen Hilt and the many artists, staff members, students, performers, playwrights, musicians, choreographers, dancers, and teachers who have made the year-long “Beyond Sacred-Unthinking Muslim Identity” project such a success; and

WHEREAS: This groundbreaking project has been described as a “vivid exploration of Muslim identity through the lenses of music, theatre and dance”, which opened a healthy dialogue among the Muslim and non-Muslim communities and shattered misconceptions while building understanding; and

WHEREAS: More than 50 performances and community dialogues were part of this cultural triumph including highly acclaimed musical premieres and dance recitals, soul expanding plays, productive civic seminars, the “Face of Islam” Student Photography Exhibit; “Beyond Sacred, Voices of Muslim Identity”; the Leap of Faith Dance Festival and unifying work of students, college staff and the professional groups participating in this history-making cultural event; and

WHEREAS: We extend our gratitude to Fing Chong & Company; the Built Collapse Theatre Company; “Cultural Diversity,” The Theatre of the Oppressed, the Queens Museum, Flushing Town Hall, Topaz Arts, Trinity Church and so many others that made this authentic portrayal of Muslim life possible. We also express our thanks to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art which funded the Association of Performing Arts Presenters grant supporting these programs. This great collaboration will continue to influence generations to come; now, therefore

BE IT KNOWN: That the Council of the City of New York honors the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center of

LaGuardia Community College

and everyone who supported and contributed to the “Beyond Sacred: Unthinking Muslim Identity” project for their stellar service to the community.

Signed this 20th day of July in the year Twenty Fifteen.

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Empire Council

J. DANEEK MILLER
Council Member, 27th District Queens

JIMMY V. KRAMER
Council Member, 26th District Queens

DANIEL DROMM
Chair Education Committee

NEZ D. BARRON
Chair Higher Education Committee

COSTA CONSTANTINIDES
Council Member, 22nd District Queens

ROBERT LANCMAN
Council Member, 24th District Queens

BLY R. NYLEN
Council Member, 39th District Brooklyn

RUBEN WILLS
Council Member, 28th District Queens

BRYNN C. COHEN
Council Member, 16th District Brooklyn

VINCENT J. GENTILE
Council Member, 43rd District Brooklyn