

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

March 19, 2024

AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Proclaiming March 19, 2024 as Persian New Year or “Nowruz” in Los Angeles

County

Every year during the spring equinox, Persians around the world gather to celebrate Nowruz. More commonly known as the Persian New Year, Nowruz translates to "new day" and symbolizes revival and renewal for its more than 300 million celebrants in modern-day Iran and beyond.

Persian New Year honors the birth of spring and the shared heritages, traditions, and cultures historically found along the Silk Road in countries like Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Azerbaijan. According to The United Nations cultural agency (UNESCO), the return of spring has great spiritual significance, representing the triumph of good over evil and joy over sorrow. The roughly two-week festival typically includes food, dancing, singing and poetry. An important component of the holiday is the creation of the Haft-Seen table including seven items representing health, rebirth, prosperity, renewal, and good fortune.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

Los Angeles is home to one of the largest Persian populations outside of Iran. Over 138,000 Iranian Americans call Los Angeles home, which is roughly a quarter of the estimated population of Iranians living in the United State. Los Angeles County is also home to a growing number of Afghan residents who also celebrate Nowruz. As residents and local businesses prepare to celebrate the holiday, it is important that the Board of Supervisors uplift the lessons of revival and renewal that come with the spring equinox and Nowruz.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim March 19, 2024 as Persian New Year or Nowruz in Los Angeles County and join with our Persian and Afghan residents in ushering the new year.

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