

A resolution of the City Council designating April, 2022 as “Chaldean-American Month” in the City of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Chaldeans / Assyrians, a Semitic people who also identify themselves as Syriacs, are the indigenous people of Mesopotamia who have lived in the Middle East since ancient times, including in what is today Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and Iran. Collectively, there are nearly half a million Chaldeans / Assyrians / Syriacs residing in the United States, including about 160,000 in the state of Michigan, the largest concentration in the country. The City of Sterling Heights is home to a significant and growing population of Chaldean-Americans.

April is an important month to the Chaldean / Assyrian / Syriac community for several reasons:

- The Assyrian / Babylonian New Year, Akitu, is a celebration of spring, rebirth and renewal which often culminates in a celebration on April 1.
- The Chaldean / Assyrian / Syriac people have faced systematic persecution in their ancestral homeland, and April 24 marks the anniversary of Seyfo, or the Genocide that claimed the lives of a million Chaldeans / Assyrians / Syriacs, Armenians and Greeks.

The Chaldean / Assyrian / Syriac people are a community of rich tradition and culture who enrich Michigan’s cultural tapestry and prosperity through their success in the arts, business, law, politics, education, medicine, architecture and engineering. Nearly 60% of Chaldean households own one business and Chaldean businesses contribute nearly \$11 billion to the economy of Southeast Michigan. Chaldean-American businesses are contributing to a vibrant local economy in the City of Sterling Heights.

Sterling Heights is proud to be home to the Chaldean Community Foundation (CCF), a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the newcomer Iraq-Chaldean and immigrant communities. Since its conception, the CCF has dedicated its efforts to advancing the social, cultural heritage and charity work in the local Chaldean community.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby designates April, 2022 as Chaldean-American Month in the City of Sterling Heights in recognition of the positive impact and significant contributions that Chaldean Americans have had on our community.

This Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Sterling Heights City Council on the 19th day of April 2022.



Melanie D. Ryska, City Clerk

