

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE **CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MARCH 17, 2010**

DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR: DAVID RIGGLEMAN

SUBJECT:
RECOGNITION OF PERSIAN HERITAGE MONTH

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at Meeting Copy of Proclamation declaring March 2010 as Persian Heritage Month

Minutes:

No action required. A presentation was made.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN called forward TED HAKIMI, President, Persian Professional Society, and SAMIRA KNIGHT to honor Norooz, or "New Day." She explained that every year on March 21st, people of Persian heritage throughout the world celebrate the spring equinox as the new year. This celebration of rejuvenation of the earth and the birth of life has a long history that goes back more than 3,000 years. She thanked the more than 10,000 Persian Americans residing in Las Vegas who significantly contribute to the local community and the Persian Professional Society for its efforts in promoting culture. She proclaimed March 2010 as Persian Heritage Month.

MR. HAKIMI accepted the Proclamation and expressed his appreciation to everyone in the audience and to RAMON TORRES, Diversity Outreach Officer, for his support every year.

MS. KNIGHT, speaking for the Persian Culture Society, the Persian Professional Society and the entire Las Vegas Iranian community, thanked the Council for honoring the Persian community with recognition of a tradition deeply rooted over 4,000 years ago. She gave some of her family history and stated that her parents immigrated to Las Vegas approximately 30 years ago, before the first revolution, in pursuit of happiness and freedom of rights, as many other Iranians have done. The small Iranian community in Las Vegas has made and continues to make many contributions to the local economy and society. The Iranian community strives for a high level of education and, therefore, produces many professionals with high income levels.

MS. KNIGHT described some of the important activities during Norooz and stated that the Persian new year offers the opportunity for a new beginning. This belief originates back to the original Persian Empire, before the advent of Islam over 1,400 years ago, stressing the strong bond of Iranians to their roots.