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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of the State of Illinois enshrined the gratitude due "to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He has permitted us to enjoy and seeking His blessing upon our endeavors - in order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people; maintain a representative and orderly government; eliminate poverty and inequality; assure legal, social and economic justice; provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual; insure domestic tranquility; provide for the common defense; and secure the blessings of freedom and liberty to ourselves and our posterity" upon the ordination and establishment of the said Constitution for the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The free exercise of religion is an inherent, fundamental, and inalienable right secured by Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois; and

18

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is committed to celebrating, preserving, and advancing the diversity of cultural heritages among the People of the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, According to Executive Order 2021-16 establishing

1 the Office of Equity, "the State of Illinois' strength derives
2 from the diversity of its population and from its commitment
3 to fair treatment and equitable services for all residents";
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Inequality has a ripple effect on entire
6 communities, particularly those that have been
7 disproportionately impacted by structural, social, and
8 institutional inequities and injustices; and

9 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois seeks to promote fairness
10 and equality and to combat unlawful discrimination and
11 harassment; and

12 WHEREAS, It is appropriate and right to celebrate a
13 diversity of cultures and heritages; this celebration serves
14 as a reminder that, despite our differing backgrounds,
15 everyone in Illinois is bound by a common hope for a better and
16 more inclusive future for our children; and

17 WHEREAS, The Moorish-Americans are the descendants of the
18 ancient Moabites who inhabited the northwestern and
19 southwestern shores of Africa; the Moabites from the land of
20 Moab, who received permission from the pharaohs of Egypt to
21 settle and inhabit northwest Africa, were the founders and are
22 the true possessors of the present Moroccan Empire, with their

1 Canaanite, Hittite, and Amorite brethren who sojourned from
2 the land of Canaan seeking new homes; their dominion and
3 inhabitation extended from northeast to southwest Africa unto
4 the present north, south, and central America to Mexico and to
5 the Atlantis Islands before the great earthquake that caused
6 the great Atlantic Ocean; and

7 WHEREAS, Through sin and disobedience, every nation has
8 suffered slavery, due to the fact that they honored not the
9 creed and principles of their forefathers; that is why the
10 Nationality of the Moors was taken from them in 1774 and the
11 words negro, black, and colored were given to the Asiatics of
12 America who were of Moorish descent; and

13 WHEREAS, On January 8, 1886, Prophet Noble Drew Ali was
14 born in the State of North Carolina, destined to become the
15 first patriot and founding father of the redeemed and
16 resurrected Nation of Moorish-Americans, the descendants of
17 Moroccans born in America; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1913, Prophet Noble Drew Ali founded The
19 Moorish Science Temple of America in Newark, New Jersey for
20 the uplifting of fallen humanity and began to uplift the
21 Moorish-Americans by teaching them to be themselves, and, on
22 May 1st, 1916, he founded the Moorish Divine National Movement
23 for the uniting of the Asiatic States of North America; and

1 WHEREAS, In Chicago in 1925, Prophet Noble Drew Ali
2 organized the Moorish-Americans as a civic organization to
3 uplift fallen humanity by teaching those things necessary to
4 help men and women become better citizens; since the work was
5 largely religious, in accordance with the divine inspiration
6 of God-Allah and the laws of the State of Illinois, on July 20,
7 1928 he convened a meeting of the members of the Moorish
8 Science Temple of America for the purpose of incorporating his
9 religious society, adopting as its corporate name "Moorish
10 Science Temple of America"; and

11 WHEREAS, On August 1st, 1928 at 2:52 pm, the organization
12 was legally changed to the aforementioned Religious
13 Corporation when Prophet Noble Drew Ali properly filed a
14 Corporate Affidavit of Religious Organization with the Cook
15 County Recorder's office in Illinois for that purpose; the
16 Affidavit, held by Moorish-Americans as "Our Authority",
17 declares that the "Moorish Science Temple of America deriv[es]
18 its power and authority from the Great Koran of Mohammed to
19 propagate the faith and extend the learning and truth of the
20 Great Prophet of Ali in America. To anoint, appoint and
21 consecrate missionaries of the Prophet and to establish the
22 faith of Mohammed in America"; and

23 WHEREAS, Act 6 of The Divine Constitution and By-Laws of

1 The Moorish Science Temple of America declares that "With us
2 all Members must proclaim their Nationality and we are
3 teaching our people their Nationality and their Divine Creed
4 that they may know that they are a part and a partial of this
5 said Government and know that they are not negroes, colored
6 folks, black people or Ethiopians, because these names were
7 given to slaves, by slaveholders, in 1779 and lasted until
8 1865 during the time of slavery, but this is a new era of time
9 now and all men now must proclaim their free national name to
10 be recognized by the government in which they live and the
11 nations of the earth, this is the reason why Allah the Great
12 God of the Universe ordained Noble Drew Ali, the prophet to
13 redeem his people from their sinful ways. The
14 Moorish-Americans are the descendants of the ancient Moabites
15 whom inhabited the North Western and South Western shores of
16 Africa"; and

17 WHEREAS, The Moorish-Americans, The Moorish Science Temple
18 of America, and their Prophet and Founding Father Noble Drew
19 Ali have suffered much and severely due to misunderstandings
20 of the purpose of his movement, their cultural heritage,
21 religious practices, nationality, names, laws, and customs;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The Moorish-American people have an illustrious
24 history of manifold contributions to civilization, the

1 development of the human experience worldwide, and the fabric
2 of American life; these contributions to humanity are largely
3 unknown to many Americans in general and, tragically, to the
4 very descendants of these Moroccans born in America in
5 particular; and

6 WHEREAS, Article I, Section 20 of the Constitution of the
7 State of Illinois declares that: "To promote individual
8 dignity, communications that portray criminality, depravity or
9 lack of virtue in, or that incite violence, hatred, abuse or
10 hostility toward, a person or group of persons by reason of or
11 by reference to religious, racial, ethnic, national or
12 regional affiliation are condemned."; and

13 WHEREAS, The pride that arises from knowing who your
14 ancestors were and the strength manifested from preserving
15 that honor in who you are today, without doubt or
16 contradiction, encourages posterity to lift their heads and
17 look forward into the future with a hope eternal; and

18 WHEREAS, Prophet Noble Drew Ali led his followers on a
19 pilgrimage to their first temple grounds on the corners of
20 37th and Federal, in Chicago, Illinois on August 31, 1927; and

21 WHEREAS, Prophet Noble Drew Ali declared that Chicago,
22 Illinois is Mecca for the Moorish-American people; and

1 WHEREAS, We recognize and celebrate the contributions to
2 cultural diversity, economic growth, and the overall
3 development of our State and nation made by the
4 Moorish-American community; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we declare the month of August of 2022 as Moorish-American
8 Awareness Month to further the awareness of Moorish-Americans
9 and the Moorish Science Temple of America.