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By:  Goodwin H.R. No. 1293

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, One year after the rebuilding of its mosque in Hudson Bend, the Islamic Center of Lake Travis has welcomed its first full-time imam and is hosting its second Ramadan observance; and

WHEREAS, A fire destroyed the first mosque on the site in Hudson Bend in 2017, when it was still under construction; members of all faiths came together in solidarity to support the Islamic Center, and it began the rebuilding process; the new two-story structure opened in May 2018 for its first Ramadan services; and

WHEREAS, The center serves as a social hub for the Muslim community in the Lake Travis area, with upstairs and downstairs prayer rooms, a nursery, space for children's religious instruction, and an outdoor deck for celebrations; it has also hosted a lecture series, food donations, and events of the Interfaith Ambassadors of Lake Travis, a community group that it helped form in the wake of the fire; and

WHEREAS, Mufti Mohamed-Umer Esmail began serving as imam of the mosque in April 2019; born in Canada, he first earned teaching certifications at the Institute for Islamic Studies in Dewsbury in the United Kingdom and went on to secure further credentials through studies with world-renowned scholars in Karachi, Pakistan; he has served as the imam of the North Austin Muslim Community Center, as spiritual advisor for the Austin Chapter of the Muslim Youth of North America, and as imam of the Nueces Mosque serving The University of Texas community; and

WHEREAS, The Islamic Center of Lake Travis provides fellowship, guidance, and inspiration to all who gather there, and it is indeed fitting to honor this notable house of worship as it marks these significant milestones; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor the Islamic Center of Lake Travis on the occasion of the first anniversary of its rebuilding and its second Ramadan observance and extend sincere best wishes to Mufti Mohamed-Umer Esmail as he begins his tenure as imam; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the center as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.