



Mayoral Proclamation

Proclamation Recognizing the Hishmeh Brothers for Operating a Business in Takoma Park for 50 Years

WHEREAS, brothers Fuad and Nihad Hishmeh moved to Takoma Park in 1973 from Ramallah, Palestine with few possessions, but with an entrepreneurial spirit; and

WHEREAS, the Hishmeh Brothers' first business in Takoma Park was the Elektrik Maid (which was in the location formerly occupied by Mark's Kitchen); and

WHEREAS, the brothers' next business was an American bakery located next door to the Elektrik Maid that they operated for two years before converting it into a Middle Eastern Bakery, which was the first bakery in the DC area to sell fresh, homemade pita bread; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Hishmeh Brothers transformed the bakery into the Middle East Market with specialty grocery items; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Hishmeh Brothers further transformed the market into a family-style restaurant called Middle East Cuisine for the Takoma Park community to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Hishmeh Brothers and sons expanded into the space behind the Middle East Cuisine Restaurant and opened a casual restaurant and bar, called Olive Lounge; and

WHEREAS, Middle East Cuisine and Olive Lounge serve delicious homemade food from the Hishmeh's native country prepared using their own unique blend of spices, marinades and family recipes; and

WHEREAS, the Hishmeh Brothers and family have been an important part of the Takoma Park community for 50 years and their restaurants are considered Takoma Park institutions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TALISHA SEARCY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, hereby congratulate Fuad and Nihad Hishmeh and their family on operating businesses in Takoma Park for 50 years and thank them for their service to the Takoma Park community.

Dated this 1st Day of November, 2023.

Talisha Searcy
Mayor