

# Whereas

*Whereas,* the mission of the Muslim Educational Trust is to provide information about Islam to both Muslims and non-Muslims, to enrich public understanding of Islam, and to dispel common myths and stereotypes about Islam; and

*Whereas,* the Muslim Educational Trust serves the Muslim community's educational needs and helps create generations of well adjusted, committed Muslims who are able to face the challenges of modern life with pride, dignity, and confidence in the Islamic path; and

*Whereas,* the Muslim Educational Trust is focused on Islam as a faith, a cultural heritage, a moral code, and a way of life; and

*Whereas,* the newly established Muslim Educational Trust (MET) Cultural and Educational Center, inaugurated on this day, shall embrace citizens of the greater Portland community; serve as a common space for mutual learning, inspiration, and friendship; and serve as a community resource to enhance understanding and appreciation among members of different faith traditions toward building community, uplifting humanity, and making meaningful contribution to world justice and peace; and

*Whereas,* the MET Cultural and Educational Center is the first Islamic heritage center in the metro area to provide recreational, cultural, educational, and social resources for all residents of the greater Portland area. The Center will welcome and encourage members of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds to partake in a wide variety of on-site activities and events, including athletics, lectures, concerts, art openings, research, study opportunities, shopping, interfaith dialogues, and social events; and

*Whereas,* the newly established center shall be an icon of Islamic heritage and civilization; an embodiment of positive integration of the American Muslim community; a source of healing and empowerment for children, youth, and adults that will transform their lives for the better, and help them thrive and become positive, well-engaged citizens;

*Now, Therefore,* I, Charlie Hales, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim December 12, 2015 to be

*Islamic Heritage Day*

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this day.

*Charlie Hales*

