

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**2023 Legislative Session**

Resolution No.	CR-073-2023
Proposed by	_____ Council Members Dernoga, Blegay, Oriadha
Introduced by	_____ Council Members Dernoga, Blegay, Oriadha, Watson, Ivey, Burroughs, _____ Hawkins, Franklin, Harrison and Olson
Co-Sponsors	_____
Date of Introduction	_____ July 18, 2023

**RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION concerning

Kashmiri Muslims Remembrance Day

For the purpose of recognizing the Exiled Kashmiri Refugees and Asylee Population in Prince George's County, Maryland on August 5th, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) state, a disputed land area among India, Pakistan, and China, enjoyed a special autonomous legal state under the India Constitution Article 370 and Article 35A of its Annex since 1949. These provisions permitted J&K to operate under its own constitution, state flag, and administration over all internal administrations of the state including citizenship, property rights, and fundamental human rights; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2019, the Indian government, after moving numerous troops into the J&K state, issued a nationwide communications blackout shutting down all cable television, internet connection, landlines, and cell phone service, and implemented a mandatory curfew shutting down shops, clinics, and all education institutions; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2019, Article 370 was officially revoked from the Indian constitution, causing many Kashmiri Muslims to be exiled from their homes in the Kashmir Valley; and

WHEREAS, August 5<sup>th</sup> is observed by the Kashmiri Muslim community every year as a day of mourning the loss of their lives, homes, livelihoods, language, and culture; and

WHEREAS, today, Prince George's County and the State of Maryland are home to one of the highest Kashmiri Muslim diaspora populations in the world, and many of the Kashmiri

residents have contributed to our County and country as doctors, entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers, and in education and innovation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Prince George’s County affirms August 5th as Kashmiri Muslims Remembrance Day and recognizes the minority refugee and asylee population of Kashmiri Muslims who have overcome incredible atrocities and challenges since 1947.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Prince George’s County recognizes the Kashmiri Muslims’ sacrifices and contributions to our local society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Council affirms the County’s ongoing commitment to cultivate an inclusive, safe, and just society and culture that values the diversity of our community, works to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society, and celebrates both our individuality and commonality.

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas E. Dernoga  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna J. Brown  
Clerk of the Council