



# City of Columbus

Office of City Clerk  
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## Legislation Text

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To Recognize and Celebrate July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 as Somali Independence Day in the City of Columbus.

**WHEREAS,** July 1<sup>st</sup> marks the national Independence Day of Somalia, observed annually in Somalia and the Somali Diaspora around the world; and

**WHEREAS,** it is a day that celebrates the Somali Republic dating back to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1960 when the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Great Britain and Greater Somalia united to form one country; and

**WHEREAS,** it is a day that marks the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalis worldwide and inspires a sense of gratitude and patriotism; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Columbus is home to one of the largest and fastest growing Somali communities in the world; and

**WHEREAS,** it is estimated at least 60,000 Somali immigrants and refugees live in Central Ohio and the City of Columbus, with an estimated 200 Somali immigrants per month arriving in the region; and

**WHEREAS,** like many immigrant communities before them, Somali Americans have made their journey to the United States seeking a better life but to also add to the diversity and vitality of our American family; and

**WHEREAS,** the Somali American community is vital to building the strength and diversity of Columbus, a truly All-American City; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:** That this Council does hereby Recognize and Celebrate July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 as Somali Independence Day, with the people of Somalia and Somali Americans here in the City of Columbus.