



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Christine Wellons, Senior Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected
Keywords: #KashmiriPandit

AGENDA ITEM #5B
January 17, 2023
Introduction

SUBJECT

Resolution To Recognize the Exiled Kashmiri Pandit Refugee and Asylee Population in Montgomery County, Maryland on January 19th

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Sayles

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

N/A

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- N/A

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Resolution, sponsored by Councilmember Sayles, would affirm January 19th to be the Kashmiri Pandit Remembrance Day, and would recognize the minority refugee and asylee population of Kashmiri Pandits in Montgomery County.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

The attached memorandum from Councilmember Sayles further explains the purpose and rationale of the proposed resolution.

This report contains:

Resolution	© 1
Sponsor's Memorandum	© 3

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: January 17, 2023
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Sayles

SUBJECT: To Recognize the Exiled Kashmiri Pandit Refugee and Asylee Population in Montgomery County, Maryland on January 19th

Background

1. On the night of January 19, 1990, the Kashmiri Pandit population were exiled from their homes, which led to their ethnic cleansing from the Kashmir Valley. This day is observed globally by the Kashmiri Pandit community every year, a day of mourning the loss of their lives, homes, livelihoods, language and culture.
2. Today, Montgomery County and the State of Maryland are home to one of the highest Kashmiri Pandit diaspora populations in the world and many of its Kashmiri residents have contributed to our County and country as doctors, entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers, and in education and innovation.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. Montgomery County affirms January 19th to be the Kashmiri Pandit Remembrance Day and recognizes the minority refugee and asylee population of Kashmiri Pandits who have overcome incredible atrocities and challenges since 1990.
2. Montgomery County recognizes the Kashmiri Pandits' sacrifices and contributions to our local society.
3. 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.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council

Date



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

COUNCILMEMBER LAURIE-ANNE SAYLES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AT LARGE

January 10th, 2023

TO: Montgomery County Councilmembers
FROM: Laurie-Anne Sayles, Councilmember
SUBJECT: Resolution in support of Kashmir Pandits

The attached is a proposed resolution on the Kashmir Pandits. I am requesting your support and co-sponsorship in solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri Pandits, a Hindu minority in India, and our sizable Hindu community here in Montgomery County who remain concerned about the situation.

In summary, the resolution declares January 19, 2023, Kashmiri Pandits Remembrance Day in honor of the Kashmiri Pandits, many who were slaughtered beginning in 1990, and who continue to suffer ethnic and religious persecution to this day. It is important that the plight of the Pandits be given attention so that those empowered to protect them can do the right thing.

Please let me know as soon as you can, if you would be willing to cosponsor this resolution. The plan is to present the resolution for adoption on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. I would really appreciate the support of all my colleagues.

STELLA B. WERNER COUNCIL OFFICE BUILDING • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

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