

MOTION

With a center located in Reseda, MTO Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism is an international non-profit organization with centers on six continents, with over one million members, and over three million participants following its weekly live online teaching sessions. MTO is a school that teaches Sufism, with a long lineage of Sufi teachers, by imparting a message of knowledge, love, peace, and tranquility to the lives of many across the world, including to many Angelenos. The knowledge and practices of the school have been passed down for 1,400 years, through an unbroken succession of 42 eminent teachers from Oveys Gharani to the present Sufi Teacher, Professor Nader Angha.

MTO Shahmaghsoudi’s activities are vast, including a range of social, community, interfaith, wellbeing and charity initiatives, and some large scale efforts that have had wide impact in Los Angeles. In September 2022, MTO donated and distributed 20,000 care packages including PPEs, backpacks, school supplies, and hygiene kits. Volunteers also organized a beach cleanup and beautified Santa Monica, and participate regularly in clean ups and volunteer efforts in the San Fernando Valley. Cognizant that Latinos have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and aware of the San Fernando Valley community’s dire need for testing, MTO collaborated with medical professionals to provide drive-thru testing with extended hours, expanding access to working class residents and garnering widespread Spanish-language media coverage. Moreover, the MTO Tamarkoz mobile app has brought peace and calm during uncertain times by providing free live meditation sessions daily, along with special “Zende Delan” music, in 11 different languages including Spanish and Hebrew.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection at Sherman Way and Hesperia Avenue in Reseda be named as “MTO Shahmaghsoudi Square” and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial signage to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY: 
NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL


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