

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD

A G E N D A

Executive Session and Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council

Date: April 25, 2022

Open Public Meetings Statement by Mayor Suarez

Public Session to Adjourn to Executive Session: C.T.O.: Adjourn:

Mayor Suarez – Adjournment into closed Executive Session in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act”

Executive Session: 6:30 P.M. C.T.O.: Adjourn:

Public Session: 7:00 P.M. C.T.O.: Adjourn:

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Citizens Comment on Agenda:

Correspondence:

ROLL CALL-PUBLIC SESSION

	Adj. to Ex.		Public	
	Pres.	Abs.	Pres.	Abs.
Mayor Suarez				
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				

ROLL CALL-EXEC. SESSION

	PRESENT	ABSENT
	Mayor Suarez	
Castelli		
Penabad		
Jimenez		
Kontolios		
Larkin		
Dorsett		

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2430 entitled, “YEAR 2022 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)”

Entertain motion to declare the time for the public hearing to be declared open

Public Hearing

Entertain motion to declare the time for the public hearing to be declared closed

Final Reading of Ordinance

Roll Call

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2431 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1661 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FIXING FEES FOR PROGRAMS OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT”

Entertain motion to declare the time for the public hearing to be declared open

Public Hearing

Entertain motion to declare the time for the public hearing to be declared closed

Final Reading of Ordinance

Roll Call

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2432 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 390-84 ENTITLED “FEES AND ESCROW DEPOSITS” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD”

First Reading of Ordinance

Roll Call

CONSENT AGENDA:

All items listed are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Borough Council and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member(s) so request it, in which case the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. The one motion signifies the adoption of all resolutions and approval of applications and minutes.

126-2022	Councilwoman Larkin	Appointment to Recreation Commission
127-2022	Councilman Castelli	Authorize to Advertise-Roadway Improvement Projects
128-2022	Councilwoman Larkin	Hire Part-Time Community Center Attendant
129-2022	Councilman Kontolios	Hire School Crossing Guard

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

RESOLUTIONS:

130-2022	Councilman Jimenez	Warrants
131-2022	Mayor Suarez	Proclamation-Arab American Heritage Month

COMMENTS BY MAYOR:

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL:

COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATOR:

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS: (All speakers are limited to five minutes maximum per meeting)

Agenda subject to change as a result of matters not known at time of printing with the consent of the Mayor and Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Mayor Suarez

BE IT RESOLVED, that the regular public meeting be adjourned, and that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield shall meet in a closed Executive Session following a five minute recess at the termination of this meeting. The purpose of the Executive Session shall be to discuss the following matters:

- _____ Personnel matters in various departments of the Borough.
- _____ Pending and Potential Litigation
- _____ Tax Court Litigation.
- _____ Potential real estate transactions in which the Borough may engage.

COUNCIL VOTE				
	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as soon as practicable discussion concerning

- _____ Personnel matters
- _____ Potential real estate transactions shall be disclosed to the public.
- _____ And that discussions with the Borough Attorney concerning litigation shall be disclosed when said litigation is terminated.

Adjournment to Closed Session. The Mayor and Council reserve the right to reconvene into Public Session, if necessary, to take action on Closed Session items.

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Councilman Jimenez

ORDINANCE NO. 2430

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield that an Ordinance entitled,

“YEAR 2022 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)”

introduced on the 11th day of April, 2022, do now pass a final reading and be adopted, and that the Borough Clerk be and she is authorized and directed to publish once, the aforesaid title, together with a notice of the date of its passage on final reading and approval thereof in The Record, a newspaper circulating in the Borough of Ridgefield.

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE ORDINANCE ADOPTED AT THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 11, 2022.

Linda M. Silvestri, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 11, 2022

Presented by Councilman Jimenez

ORDINANCE NO. 2430

“YEAR 2022 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)”

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Ridgefield in the County of Bergen finds it advisable and necessary to increase its 2022 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$173,203.28 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Ridgefield, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the 2022 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Ridgefield shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.50%, amounting to \$603,211.48, and that the 2022 municipal budget for the Borough of Ridgefield be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Councilwoman Larkin

ORDINANCE NO. 2431

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield that an Ordinance entitled,

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1661 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FIXING FEES FOR PROGRAMS OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT”

introduced on the 11th day of March, 2022, do now pass a final reading and be adopted, and that the Borough Clerk be and she is authorized and directed to publish once, the aforesaid title, together with a notice of the date of its passage on final reading and approval thereof in The Record, a newspaper circulating in the Borough of Ridgefield.

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 11, 2022

Presented by Councilwoman Larkin

ORDINANCE NO. 2431

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1661 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE
FIXING FEES FOR PROGRAMS OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT”

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield that the fee
for the following programs by and within the Borough be added as follows:

Junior Police Academy (6 th -8 th grade)	\$100.00
Chair Yoga	\$40.00
Strength & Stretch	\$50.00
Baking (Kids)	\$40.00
Baking (Teens)	\$40.00
Baking (Adults)	\$40.00
Kidz Music	\$75.00
Kidz Gymnastics/Dance	\$75.00
Basketball Clinic	\$20.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield
that the fee for the following programs by and within the Borough be amended as follows:

Tennis	\$60.00
Track & Field	\$40.00

Section II. In all other respects, the terms and provisions of Article IV Section 12 of Chapter
183 of the Code of the Borough of Ridgefield are hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section III: All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section IV: This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication
according to law.

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Councilman Dorsett

ORDINANCE NO. 2432

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield that an Ordinance entitled,

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 390-84 ENTITLED “FEES AND ESCROW DEPOSITS” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD”

introduced on the 25th day of April, 2022, do now pass a first reading and that said Ordinance be further considered for final passage a regular meeting to be held on the 23rd day of May, 2022 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached at a regular meeting of the Borough Council to be held at the Community Center, 725 Slocum Avenue and that at such time and place, all persons interested be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same, that the Borough Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to publish in The Record, a newspaper circulating in the Borough of Ridgefield said Ordinance according to law, with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading, and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Councilman Dorsett

ORDINANCE NO. 2432

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 390-84 ENTITLED “FEES AND ESCROW DEPOSITS” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD”

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield as follows:

Section I: The title to Article XVIII be and hereby is changed to read as follows:

Provisions Applicable to the Planning Board

Section II: Section A of §390-084 of the Code of the Borough of Ridgefield is deleted in its entirety and is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. The fees described herein are hereby fixed and established for development applications filed with the Planning Board. These fees are charged to cover costs associated with the administrative and clerical processing of the application and are not refundable, unless otherwise indicated.

Section III. Section B of §390-084 is hereby amended by adding the following:

(8) Application for telecommunications (cell sites, towers, antennas): \$10,000

Section IV. Section D of §390-084 is deleted in its entirety and is hereby amended to read as follows:

D. Escrow: Applicants are required, as part of the application process, to post escrow deposits as security for the anticipated fees of the Board professionals as indicated above. Escrow deposits shall be made separately for each category of professional including, but not limited to, attorney, engineer and planner. The escrow deposits shall be made in accordance with the below schedule, with the understanding that the reviewing engineer may adjust the amount of the required escrow based on the details of a particular application, and shall promptly give notice to the applicant upon making such determination. If, during the course of a continuing hearing, the Planning Board reasonably determines that additional escrows need to be posted, the applicant shall be given notice of same and shall promptly post any such required escrow. Applications shall not be determined to be complete until the requisite fees and escrow deposits are paid in full.

ESCROW DEPOSITS FOR PLANNING BOARD

	1	2	3	4	Minor Sub-division	Minor Sub-division	Major Sub-division	Major Sub-division
Type of Application	“C” Variance Only	“D” Variance Only	“C/D” Variance	No Variance Required	Prelim.	Final	Prelim.	Final
Residential Single Family	\$1,925	\$2,525	\$3,075	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Attorney	\$925	\$925	\$925	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Engineer	\$750	\$200	\$750	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Planner	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,400	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Residential Two Family	\$1,924	\$2,575	\$3,325	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Attorney	\$925	\$925	\$925	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Engineer	\$1,000	\$250	\$1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Planner	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,400	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Residential Three Family Or More	\$2,200	\$3,400	\$3,600	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Attorney	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Engineer	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$1,200	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Planner	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,400	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-Residential Site Plan Less than 10,000 Sq.Ft.	\$4,500	\$3,300	\$6,300	\$4,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Attorney	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Engineer	\$3,500	\$500	\$3,500	\$3,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Planner	\$0	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-Residential Site Plan 10,000 Sq. Ft. or More	\$6,500	\$3,300	\$8,300	\$6,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Attorney	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Engineer	\$5,500	\$500	\$5,500	\$5,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Planner	\$0	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Telecommunication Facilit	\$6,500	\$3,300	\$8,300	\$6,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Attorney	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Engineer	\$5,500	\$500	\$5,500	\$5,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Planning Board Planner	\$0	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sub-Division	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$5,300	\$5,300
Planning Board Attorney	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Planning Board Engineer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,500
Planning Board Planner (If necessary)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$800	\$800	\$1,800	\$1,800

Section V. Ordinance Subsections 390-084E and F be, and hereby are, redesignated as Sections G and H respectively, in order to accommodate the two new Sections to be added as follows:

E. Responsibility by Virtue of the Filing of an Application for Development with the Planning Board: The applicant agrees to be responsible to pay the fees of the professionals including, but not limited to, attorney, engineer and planner, reasonably incurred in connection with the review, processing and approval or denial of the application. The failure of an applicant to pay, within a reasonable period of time, the outstanding fee of any Board professional, or the failure to post a required escrow deposit, shall entitle the Planning Board to suspend hearings and/or to withhold approving documents. In addition, such failure shall authorize the Building Department to withhold the issuance of permits, certificates of occupancy and other approvals. The Board professional will also be authorized to commence a legal action against the applicant seeking the payment of any outstanding fees.

F. Procedures: The provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 40:55D-53.1, 53.2, and 53.2a as they pertain to the disposition of required deposits, payments to professionals, deposits towards expenses and dispute procedures are incorporated by reference with the proviso that the failure of an applicant to notify the governing body with a copy of said notice to the Chief Financial Officer, the appropriate Board and the professional who rendered the bill of its dispute of the charges within twenty (20) days of receipt of same shall be deemed a waiver of the applicant's right to challenge said charge or charges.

Section VI. The provisions of Article IX, Schedule of Fees, Charges and Expenses, of Part I of Chapter 390, be and hereby are deleted in their entirety, including Sections 390-47 through 390-49.

Section VII. In all other respects, the terms, conditions and provisions of Section 390-84 be and hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section VIII. This ordinance shall take effect upon final publication according to law.

Section IX. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to said inconsistencies and conflicts.

Section X. If any section, part of any section, or clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, and each section and subsection thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of the subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

Section XI. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication according to law.

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Councilwoman Larkin

RESOLUTION NO. 126-2022

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield that

ESTHER CHUCARALAO

be appointed to the Recreation Commission for the remainder of calendar year 2022.

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Councilman Castelli

RESOLUTION NO. 127-2022

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield that Borough Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for bids for:

FY2020 CDBG Roadway Improvements Linden Avenue (Shaler to Shetland)

and

FY2021 NJDOT Roadway Improvements Slocum Avenue (Broad to Abbott)

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Councilwoman Larkin

RESOLUTION NO. 128-2022

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield that

LUCY MASTRANGELO

be hired as a part-time Community Center Attendant at the rate of \$16.00 per hour effective immediately.

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Councilman Kontolios

RESOLUTION NO. 129-2022

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield that

REINA ARGUETA

be appointed as School Crossing Guard for the remainder of the 2021/2022 School Year at the hourly rate of \$13.15 effective immediately.

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

The undersigned, being the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Ridgefield, County of Bergen, New Jersey, and the person charged with the responsibility of maintaining financial records of said Borough in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:4-57 and the rules of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey adopted thereunder, does hereby certify that there are adequate funds available for the payment of the attached list of invoices, duly adopted by said Borough, and which said list indicates the specific line item of said budget to which expenditures shall be charged.

Francis J. Elenio,
Chief Financial Officer

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Councilman Jimenez

RESOLUTION NO. 130-2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that warrants totaling **\$1,661,593.76**
be drawn on the following accounts:

CURRENT	\$1,610,398.66
TRUST	\$37,205.90
CAPITAL	\$3,415.00
POOL	\$10,574.20
TOTAL	\$1,661,593.76

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				

Approved:

Attest:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting April 25, 2022

Presented by Mayor Suarez

Proclamation

RESOLUTION NO. 131-2022

WHEREAS, Arab-Americans have contributed significantly to virtually every aspect of American life, including medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, and military service; and

WHEREAS, Arab-Americans have migrated to the United States of America and have shared their cultures and traditions with friends and neighbors, while setting examples as citizens and public servants; and

WHEREAS, a thriving democracy is a result of the strong values of Arab-Americans, their strong work ethic, devotion to education, and their diversity of faith and creed; and

WHEREAS, the Arab-American community has also contributed to the advancement of American society by promoting the entrepreneurial spirit that enables our nation to be free and prosperous; and

WHEREAS, Arab-Americans seek a peaceful and diverse society, one in which all citizens feel safe and are treated equally; and

WHEREAS, Arab-Americans have contributed greatly to the development of this country.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Anthony Suarez as Mayor of the Borough of Ridgefield, do hereby proclaim the month of April as:

“Arab-American Heritage Month”

Approved:

Anthony R. Suarez, Mayor

Attest:

Linda M. Silvestri, Borough Clerk

COUNCIL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Castelli				
Penabad				
Jimenez				
Kontolios				
Larkin				
Dorsett				
Mayor Suarez				