



BOROUGH OF PROSPECT PARK • NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MOHAMED T. KHAIRULLAH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 20, 2022

CONTACT: **Intashan Chowdhury, MPA**  
P: (973) 790-7902 ext. 532  
E: chowdhuryi@prospectpark.net

***SYRIAN AMERICAN MAYORS TO HONOR LOCAL SYRIAN AMERICAN HERO***

***Prospect Park Mayor Mohamed T. Khairullah and Montvale Mayor Mike Ghassali to Honor Syrian-American Hero Zack Tahhan with a Key to City and Proclamation***

(PROSPECT PARK, NJ) - **Mayor Mohamed T. Khairullah**, the **Municipal Council**, of the **Borough of Prospect Park** in partnership with **Mayor Mike Ghassali** of the **Borough of Montvale** will be holding a joint press conference and ceremony on **Friday, April 22, 2022 at 5:00PM** in front of the **Prospect Park Municipal Building (106 Brown Avenue, Prospect Park, NJ)** to honor **Syrian American hero and New Jersey resident Zack Tahhan** who is being hailed for spotting and pointing out the Brooklyn subway mass shooting suspect which led to the capture and arrest of the individual.

The 21-year-old New Jerseyan who hails from Aleppo, Syria was immediately celebrated by New Yorkers and his fellow Americans after he quickly jumped to action when he spotted the terror suspect. Mr. Tahhan who works as a security camera technician immediately identified the subway mass shooting suspect to local authorities from photographs released by the NYPD which was widely shared online and in the media while he was updating a closed-circuit TV system at a hardware store in Manhattan's East Village. Mr. Tahhan's alertness and bravery in helping capture the Brooklyn subway terrorist, who was armed and dangerous, thus preventing further casualties to the general public, comes in the aftermath of a shocking attack that left 29 people wounded, including five in critical condition.

"I am happy that the Brooklyn Subway shooter was captured quickly, ending the possibility of any further harm to other innocent lives," stated **Mayor Mohamed T. Khairullah of Prospect Park** who will be presenting a '**Key to the City**' to **Zack Tahhan**. The irony in the efforts of Mr. Tahhan being a Syrian American who had to flee the war in Syria, is that if he was not born in the United States, he would have never been allowed into the United States because he would be considered a terror suspect, which he proved to be the furthest from and is now he is hailed as an American hero. His story debunks the fear mongers' narrative and affirms the oneness of our humanity, **Mayor Khairullah** added.

I am incredibly proud of everyone's efforts to catch the Brooklyn shooter and stop him from causing more harm," said **Mayor Mike Ghassali of Montvale** who will be presenting a Proclamation to honor Zack Tahhan's heroic efforts. "I am especially proud of a fellow Syrian, Zack Tahhan who he himself witnessed atrocities and escaped danger while in Syria and knows what pain and anguish violence brings to families. Zack Tahhan represents the true American Syrian people who love and care for this country and for what it stands for, he is a hero," **Mayor Ghassali** added.



**BOROUGH OF PROSPECT PARK • NEW JERSEY**

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MOHAMED T. KHAIRULLAH**

The program will include the following participants in no particular order:

- US Senator Robert Menendez, New Jersey
- Senator Nellie Pou, New Jersey 35<sup>th</sup> Legislative District
- Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, New Jersey 35<sup>th</sup> Legislative District
- Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, New Jersey 35<sup>th</sup> Legislative District
- Passaic County Board of County Commissioners
- Sheriff Richard Berdnik, Passaic County Sheriff
- Senator and Mayor Brian Stack, New Jersey 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District / Union City, NJ
- Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, New Jersey 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District
- Mayor Domenick Stampone, Haledon, NJ
- Councilman Mohammad Ramadan, Haledon, NJ
- Councilman Yousef Saleh, Jersey City, NJ
- Commissioner Fahim Abedrabbo, Clifton, NJ Board of Education
- Commissioner Feras Awad, Clifton, NJ Board of Education
- Councilwoman Shepa Uddin, Franklin, NJ
- Councilman Sivaraman Anbarasan, Franklin, NJ
- Smita Nadia Hussain, Bloomingdale, NJ Board of Education
- Councilman Al Abdelaziz, Paterson, NJ
- Councilman Shahin Khalique, Paterson, NJ
- Surrogate Zoila Cassanova, Passaic County Surrogate
- Senator Vin Gopal, New Jersey 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District
- Islamic Center of Passaic County
- Selaedin, Maksut, Executive Director of CAIR-NJ
- Ayaz Aslam, American Muslims for Democracy and NJ Muslim Voter Project
- Diab Mustafa, Palestinian American Community Center (PACC)
- Kamil Warraich, President of Muslim American Law Enforcement Association
- NJ Muslim Officers Society (NJMOS)
- Sgt. Bachar Balkar, Clifton Police Department

*All media inquiries should be directed to Intashan Chowdhury, Borough Administrator at 973-790-7902 x 532.*

\*\*\*\*\*