

*BY ALDS. PÉREZ, HAMILTON, COGGS, STAMPER, BORKOWSKI, WITKOWSKI, LEWIS, RAINEY, JOHNSON*

*Resolution recognizing the January 4, 2019 opening of Damascus Gate Restaurant located at 807 W. Historic Mitchell St.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **DAMASCUS GATE RESTAURANT**

*opened for business at 807 W. Historic Mitchell St. on January 4, 2019; and*

**WHEREAS,** *fleeing the Syrian Civil War, Riham Silan and Abdul Abadeh eventually immigrated to Milwaukee in 2017 where Silan cooked for local families gaining a strong reputation for delicious Syrian food, and ultimately opened a restaurant with her husband Abadeh called Damascus Gate Restaurant; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Damascus Gate Restaurant is located at 807 W. Historic Mitchell St. continuing a tradition of inclusion, diversity and celebration of the native cultures of business owners and residents along and near the corridor; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Damascus Gate Restaurant's cuisine provides Syrian items such as hummus, falafel, kefta kabab and muhalaya, and in the spirit of inclusion will also offer pizza; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes and congratulates Riham Silan and Abdul Abadeh on the opening of Damascus Gate Restaurant, thanks and commends them for their contributions to the south side of Milwaukee and the city as a whole, and wishes them success and prosperity; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Riham Silan and Abdul Abadeh.*

*Introduced by Common Council members José G. Pérez, Ashanti Hamilton, Milele A. Coggs, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark A. Borkowski, Terry L. Witkowski, Chantia Lewis, Khalif J. Rainey and Cavalier Johnson and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on January 14, 2019.*

new restaurant operated by a family that fled Syria's civil war is opening Friday evening on Milwaukee's south side — in a location different than initially planned.

Damascus Gate Restaurant, 807 W. Historic Mitchell St., is operated by Riham Silan and Abdul Abadeh.

The couple, and their three young children, immigrated to Milwaukee in fall 2017 after spending three years living in a Jordanian refugee camp.

Ahmad Nasef, a Milwaukee doctor who grew up in Syria and knew Silan's family, helped them resettle.

Silan cooked food for Nasef to thank him. Word soon spread among other area Syrian-American families about Silan's talent — honed by years of working at her family's Damascus restaurant.

Now, she and her husband, Abadeh, are opening their own restaurant.

"She's very happy," said Nasef, who served as an interpreter for Silan.

"She thanks God for this dream that's happeni

Damascus Gate's menu features Syrian items such as hummus, falafel, kefta kabab and muhalaya.

It also includes pizzas — in part because the restaurant space that the couple and Nasef found has a pizza oven.

"They want American customers," Nasef said. "They want to make sure they're inclusive of everyone."

Besides, people who order pizza also might sample some of the Syrian items, he said.