Proclamation

"Sovereignty belongs unconditionally to the people."

Ataturk

WHEREAS: It is a great pleasure and an honor to congratulate the citizens of Turkey as they celebrate the observance of Turkish Republic Day. After Turkey's victory in the War of Independence (1919-1923), the Turkish parliament proclaimed the new Turkish state as a republic. A new constitution, which the parliament adopted on October 29, 1923, replaced the constitution of the Ottoman Empire. The leader in the Turkish War of Independence, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, became the country's first president on the same day; and

WHEREAS: This day of special significance is an invaluable educational opportunity for cross-cultural understanding; Turkish Americans have proudly shared their culture, heritage and played a valuable role in the ethnic diversity of Lansing by incorporating their rich democratic legacy and dedication to the responsibilities of good citizenship; and

WHEREAS: Turkey has made significant contributions to United States foreign policy in the Balkans, the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Caucasus and has played a critical role in international efforts for peace, prosperity and stability; and

WHEREAS: To commemorate Republic Day in Turkey, events such as traditional processions with flags and musical bands are held. Processions usually conclude with evening fireworks. Many people also lay wreaths at Ataturk's monuments or visit Ataturk's mausoleum in the country's capital, Ankara; and

WHEREAS: The citizens of Lansing are keeping the country, victims and families affected by the most recent Turkey/earthquake in our thoughts as the rescue and recovery situation unfolds.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, VIRG BERNERO, Mayor of the City of Lansing, by the power vested in me, do hereby proclaim October 29, 2011 as

"Turkish Republic Day"

in Lansing. I encourage citizens to join with me in recognizing the importance of this day and the meaningful relations between Turkey and the United States and the role in maintaining and fostering this relationship.

Given under my hand and seal this twenty-ninth day of October in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and eleven.

Virg Bernero
Mayor of Lansing