WHEREAS: On behalf of the City of Lansing, it is a privilege to join the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan in celebrating Turkish Republic Day, which marks the commemoration of the proclamation of the Republic in 1923; and

WHEREAS: Modern Turkey was founded in 1923 from the Anatolian remnants of the defeated Ottoman Empire by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Under his authoritarian leadership, the country adopted a wide range of social, legal, and political reforms. However, in 1950, an experiment with multi-party politics enabled the Democratic Party to come into power. Today, Turkey is the only secular democracy in the Muslim world; and

WHEREAS: Turkey has become an integral part of Europe through its membership in organizations such as the Council of Europe and NATO. In 2005, the country began its membership negotiations with the European Union. Turkey has also strengthened its cultural, economic, industrial, and political relations with the Middle East, the Turkic states of Central Asia, and the African countries; and

WHEREAS: Founded in 1972, the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan promotes, plans, and executes programs that improve the humanitarian and cultural welfare of the Turkish community in Michigan. The organization follows the philosophy of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. To commemorate the significance of Turkish Republic Day, the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan will be hosting a "Republic's Day Ball;" and

WHEREAS: Turkish Americans have played a substantial role in the community by sharing their rich cultural heritage and through their dedication to the responsibilities of good citizenship. This day of special significance is an invaluable educational opportunity for cross-cultural understanding.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Virg Bernero, Mayor of the City of Lansing, by the power vested in me do hereby proclaim the October 29, 2012, as:

"Turkish Republic Day"

in Lansing. I encourage all 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 twelve.

Virg Bernero
Mayor of Lansing