



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 10/20/2026

ITEM NO: a

DATE: October 12, 2026
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Chris Constantin, Town Manager
SUBJECT: **Discuss Potential Future Council Consideration of Requests Associated with a Multi-Cultural Winter Celebration**

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss whether to place an item on a future Town Council agenda to consider a potential waiver of event related Town fees, Town sponsorship, and associated policy considerations for the proposed Multi Cultural Winter Celebration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this discussion. The event organizers have requested a waiver of approximately \$5,600 in Town fees. Any potential fee waiver would require further legal and policy review, including consideration of amendments to the adopted Fee Schedule Resolution, before Council could take action.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Not applicable. This item is a Council requested discussion.

BACKGROUND:

At the October 6, 2026 Town Council meeting, Mayor Rob Moore requested that the Council agendaize a discussion regarding Congregation Shir Hadash and the West Valley Muslim Association's request for a proposed Multi Cultural Winter Celebration in Plaza Park. Vice Mayor Maria Ristow supported the request.

Council Policy 2-01, Town Agenda Format and Rules, provides that a Council Member may request an item for a future agenda during Council Matters. With support from a second Council Member, the item is scheduled for discussion only on the next agenda under Council

PREPARED BY: Monica Renn
Economic Vitality Manager

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Administrative Services Director

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SUBJECT: Council Matters: Discuss a Multi-Cultural Winter Celebration Special Event and Potential Fee Waiver

DATE: October 20, 2026

Matters. The policy also provides that three or more Council Members may request action and, if the Town Manager determines an item requires significant staff effort, at least three Council Members must vote to place it on a future agenda for action.

Accordingly, the present item is before the Council for discussion and potential future agenda direction, not for consideration or approval of the underlying requests

DISCUSSION:

The Town received a special event permit application from Congregation Shir Hadash and the West Valley Muslim Association for a proposed Multi-Cultural Winter Celebration in Plaza Park. The proposal includes informational displays from December 1 through 8, 2026 and a community celebration on December 5, 2026. The permit application is being reviewed administratively under existing Town procedures.

The organizers have requested that the Town waive event related fees, estimated at approximately \$5,600, and be identified as an event sponsor on promotional materials. Neither request is being presented for approval at this meeting.

Before Council could consider substantive action, staff and the Town Attorney would need to evaluate several policy and legal matters, including the authority to waive fees, potential amendments to the adopted Fee Schedule, policies governing multi-day displays in Town parks, and the legal implications of Town sponsorship of an event involving religious expression on public property. This review would include applicable First Amendment and Establishment Clause considerations. Additional analysis and potential policy amendments will be necessary before an action item could be brought forward and such effort would be significant for purposes of the Agenda Setting Policy 2-01.

Should three or more Council Members support further consideration consistent with Council Policy 2-01, staff would return at a future meeting with the necessary legal and policy analysis and potential options for Council consideration. Such direction would not constitute approval of the event organizers' requests or authorize a fee waiver, Town sponsorship, or changes to existing policies.

CONCLUSION:

Staff requests Council discussion regarding whether to place potential action concerning a fee waiver, Town sponsorship, or related policy amendments on a future Council agenda. No decision on these substantive matters is requested today.

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SUBJECT: Council Matters: Discuss a Multi-Cultural Winter Celebration Special Event and
Potential Fee Waiver

DATE: October 20, 2026

COORDINATION:

This report was coordinated by the Town Manager's Office in consultation with the Town Attorney's Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This agenda setting discussion is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Attachments:

1. Multi-Cultural Winter Celebration Display Rendering provided by Permit Applicant