

Mayor Bill DeBlasio Celebrates Pakistan Independence Day in Brooklyn's Little Pakistan



Mayor Bill DeBlasio and COPO's Mohammad Razvi share a pleasant moment at the annual Pakistani Mela.

This Sunday, August 20th 2017 Mayor DeBlasio celebrated Pakistan Independence Day with many American Pakistanis in the heart of Little Pakistan in Brooklyn NY. The Mayor was welcomed by Mohammad Razvi Executive Director of Council of Peoples Organization (COPO). Mohammad introduced the Mayor to Pakistani American Merchants Associations' President Nawaz Khan , Chairman Nasir Faize Vice President Shafiq Hassan and Mela committee. Then Mohammad escorted the Mayor to the Mela and the community members at the event. For the first time in history a Mayor walked the streets of Little Pakistan listening to the peoples concerns. He enjoyed the cultural and the entertainment aspects of the festival as well. Everyone at the celebration felt the Mayor truly represents them and rallied around him rooting "4 more Years! — 4 more years! ". The Mayor was able to rally and excite everyone from young to old. His presence truly made it a memorable celebration. As he made his way down the various kiosks the crowd surrounding him grew in numbers. Phones and cameras were all that one could see as the Mayor posed for photos, shook hands and celebrated Pakistani Culture. The community also saw for the first time a Mayor took time to individually talk to the Pakistani Community about what they think of New York as a home. The Mayor stated " This is one of the moments when we take stock of all that the Pakistani-American community contributes to New York City...the Mela is not just a celebration of the Pakistani community, it's a celebration of what all immigrants bring to New York City" . Towards the end the Mayor visited the COPO office and praised all the great work COPO is doing for the community. He said "Thank you my good friend Mohammad for your leadership".

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