

## **How ISGR Start the Islamic Month**

Islamic Society of Greater Richmond or ISGR starts the Islamic month using actual moon sighting. ISGR doesn't use calculation nor follow any particular country/organization to determine the start of Islamic month.

### **ISGR Moon sighting criteria:**

If moon is sighted locally, both the witnesses and the sighting reports must conform to ALL the criteria specified under Islamic law and the sighting cannot contradict scientific data. Unreliable and non authentic sighting will not be used to determine the beginning of Islamic months.

If no local sighting is reported to ISGR by the time of Salat ul Isha, ISGR will examine reports from reliable and authentic national Islamic Hilal organizations to aid the decision making process.

The following criteria's are used by ISGR to determine a valid and reliable Islamic Hilal Committee.

1. The national Hilal organization must be active and looks for moon throughout the year and not just during Ramadan, Eids, or on major Islamic holidays.
2. Limits acceptable moon sighting area to only continental US and Canada.
3. Must have solid track records and consistency in their decision making process over many years.
4. Committee must have both Islamic scholars and astronomy experts.
5. Must be transparent in their decision making process and provides complete details on how they come up with a decision.
6. If possible, have a contact person, available by phone on the evening of Moon sighting.

There are many Hilal sighting committees/organization in North America. However we will only use moon sighting reports from an organization that fits our criteria mentioned above.