

**PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE
HINDU HERITAGE MONTH AND
THE CELEBRATION OF DIWALI - THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Troy is a city with the second-largest percentage of foreign-born residents in Metro Detroit. The City of Troy is proud of our many Immigrants who call this community home and appreciate their valuable contributions in building and enriching our nation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Troy takes pride in celebrating significant milestones and events of historical importance. Therefore, during the month of October we join with our Hindu neighbors to come together and celebrate their rich culture and diverse spiritual traditions; and

WHEREAS, Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world, with one billion devotees worldwide and approximately six million in the United States. The Hindu heritage, culture, traditions, and values provide their followers invaluable solutions to many of life's problems and serve as a source of inspiration, reflection, and contemplation for the millions of individuals who look to the teaching of Hinduism for guidance; and

WHEREAS, Diwali, the "Festival of Lights" symbolizes the victory of dharma, and good over evil, and is one of the most celebrated festivals of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains; and

WHEREAS, Asian Indian immigrants are the largest ethnic group of immigrants in the metro area with close to 5,000 living in Troy, and Troy is also home to one of the oldest and largest Hindu Temples in Michigan, the **Bharatiya Temple of Metropolitan Detroit**; and

WHEREAS, More than one billion celebrants worldwide reverently observe the Holy Day of **Diwali** to mark the beginning of the Hindu New Year. The US Congress and House of Representatives officially passed unanimous resolutions since 2007 recognizing the religious and historical significance of **Diwali**; and

WHEREAS, **Diwali** is a time for dana (charitable giving) and seva (selfless service) by bringing light in the form of wisdom, knowledge, nourishment, and shelter in order to alleviate the tangible forms of suffering, such as hunger, disease, and poverty. The shared Indian holiday of **Diwali** signifies a special time of peace and serenity, with the hope of building bridges of understanding and tearing down barriers of intolerance; and

WHEREAS, Our vibrant Hindu-American community has contributed tremendously to the City of Troy, the State of Michigan, and across our nation by enriching the lives of our citizens. During the month of October, the Hindu-American community will collectively celebrate its heritage by focusing on its culture and the diverse spiritual traditions rooted in India;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council hereby proclaim the **Month of October 2021 as Hindu Heritage Month** and invite Troy residents to recognize and celebrate the vital role our Hindu population has played in our Nation's history, as well as their outstanding achievements today and into the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council recognizes the religious and historical significance of **Diwali, the Festival of Lights** and **Diwali's** message of tolerance, compassion, and the victory of good over evil which resonates with the American spirit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Troy proudly expresses its deepest respect for Indian Americans and South Asian Americans throughout the world and here in the Troy community, and all those who celebrate the **Festival of Diwali on November 4, 2021. Troy City Hall will be lit up in honor of the Festival of Lights on November 4, 2021.**

Presented this 25th day of October 2021