

SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH NOVEMBER 2021

WHEREAS, November is Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month, designated by Assembly Concurrent Resolution 147 as first introduced by Assemblymember Robert 'Bob' Wieckowski in 2012, which recognizes the important contributions made by Sikh Americans to the history of California; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature 2021-2022 Regular Session adopted Assembly Concurrent Resolution 102 to "recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage to our state and seeks to afford all Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans. The measure would condemn all hate crimes and bias incidents against Sikh Americans and encourage all Sikhs to practice their faith freely and fearlessly"; and

WHEREAS, there are close to 500,000 Sikhs living in the United States and about half of this population resides in California. Sikh Americans have worked on farms, lumber mills, mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific, and Eastern Railroads. Sikh Americans have pursued diverse professions from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces to opening numerous small businesses, and have contributed to the fields of law enforcement, agriculture, information technology, the hospitality industry, trucking and medicine; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs have served in all American wars since World War I, including Bhagat Singh Thind, a Sikh born in Punjab, India, who was a United States veteran of World War I, who campaigned actively for the independence of India from British rule, who supported Indian students and lectured on metaphysics throughout the United States, and who has been honored by the Fred T. Korematsu Institute as a "Race in the Courts Hero" for fighting his citizenship case in the United States Supreme Court in 1923; and

WHEREAS, due to ignorance and hate, Sikhs have been the subject of hate crimes because of their articles of faith, including a turban and beard, which represent the Sikh religious commitment to justice, equality, and dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, the faithful service of the Sikh American community to this city, state and country merits appreciation as an integral thread in the fabric of American plurality.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Fremont, hereby proclaims the month of November 2021 to be SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH and thanks to the Sikh Community, Fremont Gurdwara Sahib, and Sikhs For Humanity for their efforts during the pandemic for providing a daily food drive, free PPE kits, multiple grocery drives, as well as the vaccination drive earlier this year in administering thousands of vaccines.