

# CITY OF FRESNO

*Offices of the Fresno City Council & Mayor*

## *“Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month”*

**WHEREAS,** *Sikhs, who originated in Punjab India, first entered California in 1899 through Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco, California. The Sikh pioneers initially worked on railroad construction projects and in lumber mills and by 1910 turned to farming in Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys; and*

**WHEREAS,** *On October 14, 1912, the first Sikh house of worship (gurdwara) in the United States, the Stockton Sikh Temple, was founded by Jawala Singh and the following year the congregation formed the Pacific Coast Khalsa Divan Society; and*

**WHEREAS,** *There are now more than 220 known gurdwaras in the United States, 58 of which are in California including the Gurdwara Sahib of San Jose, the largest Gurdwara in North America; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Fresno serves a vast amount of cultures and backgrounds including the Sikh community, which first came to Fresno in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s; and*

**WHEREAS,** *The Sikh community in Fresno is comprised of various professional backgrounds such as doctors, attorneys, engineers, teachers, small business owners, and farmers who contribute abundantly to the production of peaches, raisins, grapes, almonds, pistachios, okra, etc.; and*

**WHEREAS,** *The City of Fresno acknowledges and commends the significant contributions made by Fresnans of Sikh heritage and by presentation of this proclamation our city seeks to afford all Fresnans the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans.*

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** *that we, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Fresno, do hereby proclaim November 2018 as:*

***“Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month”***  
*in the City of Fresno*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the seal of the City of Fresno, California, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.*

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*LEE BRAND, Honorable Mayor*

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*ESMERALDA SORIA, Council President*

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*STEVE BRANDAU, Council Vice President District 2*

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*OLIVER BAINES III, Councilmember District 3*

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*PAUL CAPRIOGLIO, Councilmember District 4*

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*LUIS CHAVEZ, Councilmember District 5*

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*GARRY BREDEFELD, Councilmember District 6*

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*CLINT OLIVIER, Councilmember District 7*