

CITY OF FRESNO

Office of Mayor Jerry Dyer

Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month

WHEREAS, there are an estimated one billion Hindus worldwide, with approximately 3.4 million Hindu Americans living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in Fresno represent diverse ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent; and

WHEREAS, the year 2022 marks the 129th anniversary of Hinduism's official introduction in the United States by Swami Vivekananda at the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, and the 122nd anniversary of his founding of the Vedanta Society in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, most Hindu immigrants have come to the United States as students, in search of better economic opportunities, or to unite with family members, while others have arrived in this country after facing religious persecution in their countries of origin; and

WHEREAS, the first Hindu temple in the United States was built in San Francisco, and during its 1906 dedication was proclaimed to be the "First Hindu Temple in the Whole Western World;" and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans throughout Fresno celebrate numerous holidays and festivals, such as Diwali, which celebrates the victory of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Mayor Jerry Dyer and the Fresno City Council, do hereby proclaim October to be:

"Hindu American 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 13th day of October 2022.

JERRY DYER, Honorable Mayor

NELSON ESPARZA, Council President

ESMERALDA SORIA, Councilmember District 1

MIKE KARBASSI, Councilmember District 2

MIGUEL ARIAS, Councilmember District 3

TYLER MAXWELL, Council Vice President

LUIS CHAVEZ, Councilmember District 5

GARRY BREDEFELD, Council District 6