

# CITY OF FRESNO

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*Office of Councilmember Esmeralda Soria*

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*Is hereby presented in honor of:*

## ***Sikh Awareness Month***

**WHEREAS,** *We dedicate the month of November in California for “Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation” for the contributions they have made to the Central Valley through agriculture, business, trucking, medicine, law, engineering, education, law enforcement, military service and more; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Sikhism, the fifth largest religion in the world, originated in 1469 by Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and lives on through the teachings written in The Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Sikhism believes in the equality of gender, race, and religion; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Sikhs, who originate from Punjab, India, first arrived to the United States in 1899, through Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco, California. The earliest of settlers worked in railroad construction and lumber mills until eventually setting foot in the farming industry in Yuba, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and the Imperial Valleys; and*

**WHEREAS,** *The creation of the first Sikh Gurdwara in 1912 in Stockton, California created a hub of connection and community for not only the Sikh diaspora, but Muslim and Hindu communities as well. Over the decade, California’s Sikh community has expanded and is home to 58 Gurdwaras statewide; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Today, California is home to one of the largest Sikh communities outside of Punjab. Punjabi is the third most spoken language across the Central Valley between Yuba City and Bakersfield; and*

**WHEREAS,** *More than 30,000 Sikhs reside in San Joaquin Valley and Sikhs account for 20% of table grape farmers in the Fresno and Bakersfield area. Sikhs also make up 95% of the peach farming, 60% of prune farming, and 20% of almond and walnut growing in Yuba County.*

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** *that the City of Fresno Mayor and City Council does hereby proclaim the month of November 2019 to be:*

***“Sikh Awareness 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019.*

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**LEE BRAND,** *Honorable Mayor*

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**PAUL CAPRIOGLIO,** *Council President, District 4*

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**MIGUEL ARIAS,** *Council Vice-President, District 3*

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**ESMERALDA SORIA,** *Councilmember, District 1*

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**MIKE KARBASSI,** *Councilmember, District 2*

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**LUIS CHAVEZ,** *Councilmember, District 5*

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**GARRY BREDEFELD,** *Councilmember, District 6*

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**NELSON ESPARZA,** *Councilmember, District 7*