

PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, our community has benefitted from the many innovations of Hindu Americans, including Ayurvedic medicine, classical art, dance, music, meditation, yoga, literature, and community services; and

WHEREAS Hindu communities are staunch advocates for the principles of inclusion, pluralism, and religious freedom, which are deeply ingrained in their beliefs. and

WHEREAS Hindu Americans despite their positive contributions to Olympia, the state of Washington and the nation, face stereotypes and misconceptions about their heritage and have been the targets of bullying, discrimination, hate speech, and bias-motivated crimes; and

WHEREAS the Hindu community in Olympia take pride in sharing their vibrant culture and joyous celebrations observed across their diverse communities; and

WHEREAS the City of Olympia is committed to embracing diversity and inclusion by paying tribute to Hindu heritage through education, acknowledgment, and celebration within our community; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Heritage Month is celebrated every October, which coincides with major Hindu festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Raksha Bandhan, Pongal, Onam, Saraswati Puja, Navratri and Diwali; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Olympia City Council, does hereby proclaim October 2024 as

HINDU HERITAGE MONTH

in the City of Olympia in order to increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu American community and to encourage all residents to recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Olympia residents of Hindu heritage to our City.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2024

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

*Dontae Payne
Mayor*