

CITY OF SPOKANE



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Spokane Community is positively influenced by the extraordinary cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity of its residents. Hindu temples, organizations, and individuals actively engage in seva, a Sanskrit word for selfless service, towards their fellow human beings through charity, public service; and

WHEREAS, Ahimsa, Sanskrit for noninjury or nonviolence, is a central Hindu-American principle and the ethical foundation for vegetarianism, environmentalism, and harmonious living. Despite their positive contributions to Spokane, Washington State and the nation, Hindu Americans face stereotypes and misconceptions about their heritage and have been the targets of bullying, discrimination, hate speech, and bias-motivated crimes. This misunderstanding and misappropriation has led to frequent harassment of the Hindu-American community; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans promote the ideals of tolerance, pluralism, and religious freedom, which are inherent to their beliefs and respect the diversity of all faiths. Hindu temples, organizations, and individuals provide platform for cultural exchange through art, music, and celebration of festivals which are open to all and believe that the whole world is one big family (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam), the underlying principle from the Veda:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nadine Woodward, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the citizens of Spokane, do hereby proclaim October 2023 as

HINDU AMERICAN HERITAGE AND APPRECIATION MONTH

in Spokane.

I, Nadine Woodward, Mayor of Spokane, do hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Spokane to be affixed this 9th day of October 2023.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Nadine Woodward".

Nadine Woodward
Mayor

