

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 and 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 platforms for cultural exchange through art, music, and the 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, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as

HINDU AMERICAN HERITAGE AND APPRECIATION MONTH

in Spokane and encourage all residents to acknowledge and celebrate the many contributions the Hindu American community have made in our City.

I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of Spokane,
do hereunto set my hand and
cause the seal of the City of Spokane
to be affixed this
25th day of September 2024.

Lisa Brown

Lisa Brown
Mayor

