

CITY OF SPOKANE



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Sanātana Dharma is one of the ancient living spiritual and philosophical traditions in the world, with over 1.2 billion devotees globally. The broader Dharmic traditions—including Jainism, Sikhism, and Buddhism—have more than 12 million adherents in the United States alone. Hindu heritage, culture, traditions, and values offer timeless wisdom and solutions to many of life’s challenges, serving as a source of inspiration, reflection, and guidance for millions. Rooted in Vedas, Sanātana Dharma widely known as Hinduism laid the foundation for one of the world’s oldest continuous civilizations — the Indus-Saraswati Civilization. In the City of Spokane, the American Hindu community plays a pivotal role in enriching the diverse social and cultural fabric. Hindu temples, organizations, and individuals actively practice seva, the Sanskrit word for selfless service, through charitable efforts and public service; and

WHEREAS, Ahimsa, meaning non-injury or nonviolence, is a central principle in Hindu philosophy and serves as the ethical foundation for vegetarianism, environmental stewardship, and peaceful coexistence. Despite their contributions to Spokane, Washington State, and the United States, Hindu Americans continue to face stereotypes, misconceptions, and instances of bullying, discrimination, hate speech, and bias-motivated crimes. These challenges arise from widespread misunderstanding and cultural misappropriation; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans uphold the ideals of tolerance, pluralism, and religious freedom—values intrinsic to their faith—and foster interfaith respect and cultural exchange through art, music, and festivals that embody the inclusive spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the Vedic principle meaning “the world is one family.” The vibrant American Hindu community has significantly contributed to the vitality and progress of the City of Spokane. With a strong commitment to family, education, community service, and hard work, American Hindus have played an essential role in upholding the foundational principles of our society. Their influence spans numerous fields including medicine, science, technology, academia, art, and literature. Moreover, Hindu American entrepreneurs continue to drive innovation and economic growth, serving as role models for future generations:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim October 2025 as

HINDU HERITAGE MONTH

in Spokane and encourage all residents to acknowledge and celebrate the many contributions the Hindu 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
16th day of October 2025.

Lisa Brown

Lisa Brown
Mayor

