

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world, with more than 25 million Sikhs worldwide, including an estimated 500,000 Sikh Americans and 25,000 Sikhs in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States for over 120 years, and during the early 20th century, Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills, in mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific, and Eastern Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Chicago's Sikh American community has contributed greatly to the cultural fabric and demographic landscape of this diverse city, fostering respect among all people through faith and service; and

WHEREAS, the City is home to a proud and vibrant Sikh community that has undoubtedly impacted culture and industry by influencing the arts and education, business and government, social service, the hospitality industry, and scientific and technological advancements near and far; and

WHEREAS, April is an important month in the Sikh American community because Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism, Guru Angad Dev Ji, the second Sikh Guru, and Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, the ninth Sikh Guru were born in April; Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru established the Khalsa in April of 1699; and Vaisakhi, a cultural festival that celebrates harvest season in Punjab, India also falls in April; and

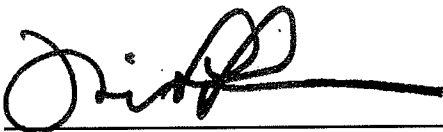
WHEREAS, despite making vital contributions, Sikh Americans continue to face widespread prejudice, resulting in unacceptably high rates of hate violence, employment discrimination, school bullying, and profiling; and

WHEREAS, the City advances the principles of non-violence, tolerance, religious freedom, trust, safety, justice, equality, understanding, and respect for all people of all backgrounds and faiths, and condemns acts of hatred and violence against all people regardless of ethnic, religious, or racial identity, recognizing that an attack on any one of us is an attack on all of us; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby recognize the month of April 2026 as Sikh Heritage Month in Chicago and honor the significant and ongoing contributions of the Sikh American community to the cultural, social, and economic life of our City and the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Chicago commits to continuing to denounce hate crimes and bigotry in public and political discourse and promote education and dialogue on diverse cultures and religions within communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to Sikh Chicago and the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund as a token of the City's appreciation and support.



NICOLE LEE
Alderman, 11th Ward