**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DIWALI & APAPA**

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APAPA AND THE CULTURAL
& HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF DIWALI IN 2024**

WHEREAS, Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most important and widely celebrated festivals in the Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and other South Asian communities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Diwali is celebrated as a symbol of the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil, signifying the victory of knowledge over ignorance; and

WHEREAS, Diwali is a time for families and communities to come together, exchange gifts, share meals, and light oil lamps, candles, and fireworks, creating a sense of unity, joy, and togetherness; and

WHEREAS, Diwali represents a significant cultural and religious festival for millions of people around the world, fostering understanding and respect for diverse cultural traditions and practices; and

WHEREAS, the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) is a non-profit organization founded in 2001 with the mission to advance the Asian Pacific Islander American communities through increased leadership development, civic engagement and active participation in public affairs during the last 22 years;

WHEREAS, APAPA is a local and national nonprofit organization with volunteer driven chapters across the United States with board members and student interns working together to build a better world that is diverse, inclusive, and well-represented. APAPA leads town halls, community forums, voter registration events, and a national internship program with hundreds of students each year hosted by public officials across the country;

WHEREAS, APAPA looks to the future to expand partnerships, chapters, and interns together to further achieve its mission and support community outreach to recognize and celebrate the positive contributions of our diverse communities.

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of local governments to acknowledge and honor the cultural and religious traditions of their residents, contributing to the city's richness and vibrancy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*,* that the City/County of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_ (State):

Recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Diwali and expresses its deepest appreciation for APAPA and all individuals who celebrate Diwali; encourages residents to learn about and participate in Diwali celebrations, fostering intercultural exchange, appreciation, and friendship within our communities; and wishes all individuals who celebrate Diwali a happy celebration.

Passed and Adopted by the Council/County on this day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ -, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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Mayor/Supervisor/Assembly/Senate