

## Proclamation

- Whereas,** the State of California recognizes Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month to acknowledge the significant contributions made by individuals of Sikh heritage to our community; and
- Whereas,** Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions and walks of life, making rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of our communities. Sikh Americans are doctors, attorneys, teachers, small business owners, and elected officials, and have made significant contributions in agriculture, medicine, technology, military service, and security and transportation services; and
- Whereas,** Sikhs originated in the Punjab regional of South Asia and first entered California in 1899 through the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco. During the early 20th century, thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on railroad construction projects; and
- Whereas,** today, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world with more than 25 million Sikhs worldwide, including more than 500,000 Sikhs living in the United States; and
- Whereas,** Sikhs have been the subject of discrimination, violence, and genocide because of their faith and articles of faith, including a turban and beard, which represent the Sikh religions' commitment to justice, equality, and dignity for all; and
- Whereas,** since the FBI began tracking anti-Sikh hate crimes in 2015, Sikhs have been among the top five most targeted faith groups, and research shows that Sikh students, particularly those who carry the identity, experience bullying at rates twice the national average; and
- Whereas,** the City of Alameda is enriched by the diversity of our residents and we stand committed to the values of dignity, inclusivity, and respect for all individuals, regardless of ethnic or national origin, gender, race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, or immigration status.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved,** that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby proclaim November 2023 to be

### **Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month**

in the City of Alameda and encourage all Alamedans to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans.



Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft  
Mayor

