

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2021-R-50

RESOLUTION NO. ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE RELIGIOUS AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF DIWALI, THE 'FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS,' WHICH WILL OCCUR ON NOVEMBER 4, 2021, INCLUDING DIWALI'S PREDOMINANT AND SOBERING MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE, COMPASSION AND THE EMBRACE OF VICTORY OF GOOD OVER EVIL WHICH CONTINUES TO RESONATE WITH THE AMERICAN SPIRIT AND FABRIC WHICH APPEARS AS THE PROMINENT THEME OF LIFE FOR HINDUS, SIKHS, JAINS, AND BUDDHISTS, IN AMERICA, AND ALL OVER THE WORLD; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Hindu American Foundation and over one billion celebrants worldwide reverently observe the festival of Diwali, the "Festival of Lights" symbolizing the victory of dharma, and good over evil; and

WHEREAS, Diwali is one of the most celebrated festivals of great significance to Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists; and

WHEREAS, Diwali falls on Thursday, November 4 this year in accordance with the lunar calendar, and brings together families, friends, and communities in the United States and around the globe in goodwill, peace, and a shared sense of renewal; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has officially passed unanimous resolutions since 2007, recognizing the religious and historical significance of Diwali; and

WHEREAS, celebrants renew their commitment to upholding values of truth, non-harming, and restraint through their thoughts, words, and actions; and

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WHEREAS, Diwali is a time for dana (charitable giving) and seva (selfless service) by bringing light in the form of wisdom, knowledge, nourishment, and shelter in order to alleviate the tangible forms of suffering, such as hunger, disease, and poverty; and

WHEREAS, the shared Indian holiday of Diwali signifies a special time of peace and serenity with the hope of building bridges of understanding and tearing down barriers of intolerance; and

WHEREAS, Diwali is celebrated by many Hindus as a day of thanksgiving for the homecoming of Lord Rama and the beginning of the new year for many Hindus; and

WHEREAS, Diwali is a festival of lights during which celebrants light diyas, small oil lamps, place them around the home, and pray for knowledge, peace, and universal well-being; and

WHEREAS, for Sikhs, Diwali is celebrated as the day that the sixth founding Sikh Guru, or revered teacher, Guru Hargobind, was released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir; and

WHEREAS, for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of moksha, or liberation, by Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankaras (the great teachers of Jain dharma), at the end of his life in 527 B.C.; and

WHEREAS, for Buddhists, especially Newar Buddhists, Diwali is commemorated as Ashok Vijayadashami, the day the great Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism as his faith; and

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WHEREAS, the City Commission believes it is in the best interest of the City to recognize and support Diwali's predominant and sobering message of tolerance, compassion, and the embrace of victory of good over evil, which continues to resonate with our American spirit and fabric and appears as the prominent theme of life for Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, in America, and all over the world; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission believes it is in the best interest of the City to recognize and support the religious and historical significance of Diwali, the 'Festival of Lights' on November 4, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a specific part of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. The City of Pembroke Pines recognizes and supports the religious and historical significance of Diwali, the 'Festival of Lights,' which will occur on November 4, 2021.

SECTION 3. The City of Pembroke Pines recognizes and supports Diwali's predominant and sobering message of tolerance, compassion, and the embrace of victory of good over evil, which continues to resonate with our American spirit and fabric and appears as the prominent theme of life for Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, in America, and all over the world.

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SECTION 4. All resolutions inconsistent or in conflict herewith shall be and are hereby repealed insofar as there is conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION 5. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and adoption by the City Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2021.

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: _____
MAYOR FRANK C. ORTIS

MARLENE GRAHAM
CITY CLERK

ORTIS _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

SIPLE _____

SCHWARTZ _____

OFFICE OF THE
CITY ATTORNEY

GOOD _____

CASTILLO _____