



**City of Palo Alto**  
**City Council Staff Report**

**(ID # 9856)**

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**Report Type: Special Orders of the Day Meeting Date: 11/26/2018**

**Summary Title: Sikh Awareness Month Proclamation**

**Title: Proclamation Honoring Sikh Awareness Month**

**From: City Manager**

**Lead Department: City Clerk**

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Sikh Awareness Month Proclamation



# Proclamation

## Honoring Sikh Awareness Month

**WHEREAS**, California and our nation are at once blessed and enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world and today, there are more than 23 million Sikhs worldwide and an estimated 500,000 Americans of Sikh origin, comprising about half of the nation's estimated Sikh population, residing in California alone; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhs, who originated in Punjab, India, first entered California in 1899 through the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco, California; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhs are a grass roots community of more than 100 years, and during the early 20th century, thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific & Eastern Railroad; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikh Americans come from many walks of life and pursue diverse professions, making rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States, including service as members of the United States Armed Forces; they have made significant contributions to our great nation in agriculture, trucking, medicine and technology, and have distinguished themselves by fostering greater respect among all people through faith and service; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikh history and culture is represented in the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., in the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, and in the museum at the Stockton Sikh Temple; and

**WHEREAS**, due to ignorance and hate, Sikhs have been the subject of hate crimes because of their articles of faith, including a turban and beard, which represent the Sikh religious commitment to justice, equality, and dignity for all; and continue to peacefully overcome attacks on its identity and practices, whether in the form of school harassment, employment discrimination, or hate crimes.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Liz Kniss, Mayor of the City of Palo Alto on behalf of the City Council proclaim November to be Sikh Awareness Month; and do hereby call upon all citizens to seek to further the diversity of its community and afford all residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared experiences of Sikh Americans.

Presented: November 1, 2018



*Liz Kniss*  
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Liz Kniss  
Mayor