

**PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE  
CELEBRATION OF DIWALI - THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS  
OCTOBER 30, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, The Hindu American Foundation and more than one billion celebrants worldwide reverently observe the Holy Day of **Diwali** to mark the beginning of the Hindu New Year; and

**WHEREAS**, **Diwali**, the “**Festival of Lights**” symbolizes the victory of dharma, and good over evil, and is one of the most celebrated festivals of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian Indian immigrants are the largest ethnic group of immigrants in the metro area with close to 5,000 living in Troy, and Troy is also home to one of the oldest and largest Hindu Temples in Michigan, the **Bharatiya Temple of Metropolitan Detroit**; and

**WHEREAS**, The US Congress and House of Representatives officially passed unanimous resolutions since 2007 recognizing the religious and historical significance of **Diwali**; and

**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;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Troy City Council recognizes the religious and historical significance of **Diwali**, the **Festival of Lights** and **Diwali's** message of tolerance, compassion, and the victory of good over evil which resonates with the American spirit; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Troy proudly expresses its deepest respect for Indian Americans and South Asian Americans throughout the world and here in the Troy community, and all those who celebrate the **Festival of Diwali on October 30, 2016**.

Presented this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016