PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE
CELEBRATION OF DIWALI - THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
NOVEMBER 3, 2013

WHEREAS, The Hindu American Foundation and more than 1 billion celebrants worldwide reverently observe the Holy Day of **Diwali** to mark the beginning of the Hindu New Year; and

WHEREAS, 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 in 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 on this significant occasion as they celebrate the **Festival of Diwali on November 3, 2013.**

Presented this 21st day of October, 2013