

RESOLUTION 2019- _____

**CELEBRATING APRIL AS A MONTH OF
SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION IN WHATCOM COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States and Whatcom County for 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 Washington, Oregon, California and Pacific & Eastern Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world and today there are more than 30 million Sikhs worldwide and an estimated 500,000 Sikh Americans; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant and growing population in Whatcom County, including three gurdwaras (Sikh houses of worship); and

WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is one of the most historically significant days of the year for Sikhs and is celebrated in April every year; and

WHEREAS, 2019 is the 550th birthday of the first of ten gurus, and founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, and this is celebrated by Sikhs in Whatcom County, many other locations in United States, and worldwide as Guru Nanak's Gurburab and is one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar; and

WHEREAS, Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions and make rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States, including service as members of the United States Armed Forces and significant contributions to our great nation in agriculture, information technology, small businesses, the hotel industry, trucking, medicine, and technology; and

WHEREAS, Sikh Americans distinguished themselves by fostering respect among all people through faith and service; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County is committed to educating citizens about the world's religions, the value of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a culture of mutual understanding, and the diminution of violence; and

WHEREAS, the Arch of Healing and Reconciliation monument honors the brave immigrants to the Pacific Northwest from India, China, and Japan, including Sikhs, and recognizes all immigrants who have come to America since the late 1800's seeking better opportunities for themselves and their families through hard work and determination; and

WHEREAS, today, Whatcom County seeks 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on this day, March 12, 2019, the Whatcom County Council hereby proclaims the month of April 2019 to be Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Rud Browne, Council Chair

APPROVED as to form:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor