

TO ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION FOR**

APRIL 9, 2019

SUBSTITUTE VERSION OF:

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE SIKH AMERICAN
COMMUNITY OF WHATCOM COUNTY (AB2019-161)**

DISTRIBUTED AT 2:30 P.M. ON APRIL 8, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. _____

HONORING THE SIKH AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF WHATCOM COUNTY

WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States and Whatcom County for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, 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 a religion founded in the Punjab region of South Asia over five centuries ago and introduced to the United States in the 19th century; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest world religion with approximately twenty-five million adherents from diverse backgrounds throughout the world, including an estimated five hundred thousand adherents in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs in the United States pursue diverse professions and walks of life, making rich contributions to the economic vibrancy of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County prides itself on being a state where people of all faiths and cultures are welcomed and respected; and

WHEREAS, the Arch of Healing and Reconciliation monument in Bellingham honors the brave immigrants to the Pacific Northwest from India, China, and Japan, including Sikhs, and in recognition of 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, during the month of April the Sikh community celebrates Vaisakhi, also known as Khalsa Day, which marks the beginning of the harvest season and the Sikh New Year; and

WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is one of the most religiously significant days in Sikh history, commemorating the creation of the Khalsa, a fellowship of devout Sikhs, by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699; and

WHEREAS, the local Sikh community will be celebrating Vaisakhi on April 27, 2019, at the Guru Nanak Gursikh Temple, Lynden, showcasing Sikh heritage and culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Whatcom County Council wishes our Sikh American community a very joyous Vaisakhi celebration.

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