

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-13**

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE SIKH AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF BELLINGHAM**

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 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, Bellingham prides itself on being a City 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 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, 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 significant days in Sikh history and commemorates the creation of the Khalsa, a fellowship of devout Sikhs; and

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

City of Bellingham  
City Attorney  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
360-778-8270

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM** that the Council honors the Sikh American community as it celebrates during the month of April.

**PASSED** by the Council this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.


  
Daniel Hammill, Council President

**APPROVED** by me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

  
Kelli Linville, Mayor

**ATTEST:**   
Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Office of the City Attorney

City of Bellingham  
City Attorney  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
360-778-8270