

PROCLAMATION

“Recognizing the Religious and Historical Significance of the Festival of Diwali”

WHEREAS, for millions of Indian-Americans, Diwali is a time for thanksgiving and prayer for health knowledge and peace; and

WHEREAS, Diwali, a festival of great significance to Indian Americans, is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Diwali, the most popular Hindu holy day, is the festival of lights, which aims at dispelling the darkness and lighting up the lives and symbolizes the victory of good over evil. On this day of forgiveness, festivities, and friendliness, families and friends get together for worship followed by a sumptuous and elaborate feast also considered a harvest festival; and

WHEREAS, Diwali falls on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar and is celebrated as a day of thanksgiving and the beginning of the New Year for many Hindus; and

WHEREAS, for Hindus, Diwali is a celebration of the return of god following the vanquishing of demonic forces;

WHEREAS, for Sikhs, Diwali is feted as the day on which the sixth founding Sikh guru, Guru Hargobind, was released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir; and

WHEREAS, for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of Nirvana by Lord Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankaras (founders of the Jain philosophy); and

WHEREAS, according to Rajan Zed, President of the Universal Society of Hinduism, Diwali is a celebration of great importance in Indian-American communities throughout the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert L. Crowell, Mayor of Carson City, Nevada, do hereby recognize the historical and religious significance of Diwali, the festival of lights, and appreciate the religious diversity in both India, the United States and throughout the world and acknowledge and support the relationship of collaboration and respect between the United States and India.



Dated this 3rd day of November 2011.


Robert L. Crowell, Mayor