

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Hindu American Foundation, the World Hindu Council of America (Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America), COHO - Coalition of Hindu Organizations, Hindu Temples and over one billion celebrants worldwide reverently observe the festival of Diwali, "Festival of Lights" symbolizing the victory of dharma and good over evil; and

WHEREAS, Diwali is one of the most celebrated festivals of great significance to Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists; and

WHEREAS, Diwali falls on Thursday, November 4 this year in accordance with the lunar calendar, and brings together families, friends, and communities here in the U.S. and around the globe in goodwill, peace, and a shared sense of renewal; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress officially passed unanimous resolutions since 2007 recognizing the religious and historical significance of Diwali. Celebrants renew their commitment to upholding values of truth, non-harming, and restraint through their thoughts, words, and actions; 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 to order to alleviate the tangible forms of suffering, such as hunger, disease, and poverty; and

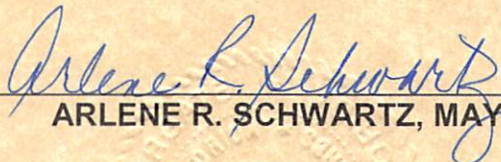
WHEREAS, the shared Indian holiday of Diwali signifies a special time of peace and serenity with the hope of building bridges of understanding and tearing down barriers of intolerance. Diwali is celebrated by many Hindus as a day of thanksgiving for the homecoming of Lord Rama and the beginning of the new year for many Hindus; and

WHEREAS, Diwali's message of tolerance, compassion, and victory of good over evil which resonates with the American spirit. With deepest respect for Hindu Americans, we encourage all people of Margate to join in recognizing the significance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Arlene R. Schwartz, Mayor of the City of Margate, do hereby recognize November 4, 2021, as

DIWALI FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Margate to be affixed this 3rd day of November 2021.



ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, MAYOR

Vice Mayor Antonio V. Arserio, Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Tommy Ruzzano, Commissioner Joanne Simone