



# *Proclamation*

- WHEREAS,** members of the Sikh community living and working in the City of Merced and surrounding areas make vital contributions to the well-being of our community; and
- WHEREAS,** the first Sikhs came to California from India's Punjab region in 1899 and the first Sikh Gurdwara (house of worship) in the United States was built and completed in Stockton as early as 1912 and is the oldest Sikh Worship and Culture Center in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** Sikhism is the world's fifth largest religion with more than 26 million followers, founded by Guru Nanak (1469-1549) and based on the teachings of the ten Sikh Gurus, the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh Holy Scripture), and that all people have the right to follow their own path to God; and
- WHEREAS,** organized and systematic violence was carried out against the Sikh population throughout India in the aftermath of the assassination of Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, on October 31, 1984; and
- WHEREAS,** the violence against the Sikhs continued unabated for several days in more than 100 cities across India, resulting in thousands of Sikhs killed, women raped, Gurdwaras (Sikh Temples) burned, and Sikhs displaced; and
- WHEREAS,** many Sikhs lives were saved from the massacre by compassionate Indians of all religious backgrounds, who put their own lives at risk by providing shelter to their Sikh friends and neighbors; and
- WHEREAS,** the pogrom resulted in the intentional destruction of many Sikh families, communities, homes, and businesses,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor** of the City of Merced, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby commemorate the November 1984 Sikh Genocide and the importance of acknowledging such history in order to declare such acts atrocious, voice our hope that those responsible are punished, and express appropriate sympathy so that history does not repeat itself.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.

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*Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced*