

Hudson County, New Jersey
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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Immediate Release

Hudson County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution recognizing April as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month in the County of Hudson

Hudson County- The Hudson County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution recognizing April as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month in the County of Hudson.

On April 9, 2018, Governor Philip D. Murphy signed AJR-93/ SJR-218 by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey designating the month of April of each year as “Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month.”

The Hudson County Board of County Commissioners is proud to recognize and commemorate the monumental achievements of Sikh community and desires to recognize the month of April of each year as “Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month.”

Sikhism is the world’s fifth largest religion with nearly 30 million followers, including roughly 500,000 in the United States.

Sikhism, originating in Punjab, India in the 15th century, teaches its followers to practice the universal principles of truthful living, service to humanity and devotion to God; believing that every human being, regardless of race, gender, or creed is equal in the eyes of God. Sikhism is credited as a pioneer of social justice with female participation in religious ceremonies being widely encouraged.

The Sikh community began arriving in the United States in the late 1800s; making invaluable contributions to the growth and prosperity of our community while enriching America's culture, history, economy, and diversity, including former New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal and Hoboken Mayor Ravinder Bhalla.

The religion's emphasis on loving service to humanity inspires practicing members of the Sikh community to engage in lasting social contributions, such as providing free food to the less fortunate through the annual "Let's Share a Meal" event in Jersey City and the Nanak Naam Jahaj Gurudwara, a place of communal service that provides community activities and events in Jersey City.

The Sikh community commonly experiences discrimination with Sikh children experiencing school bullying and enduring some form of physical or verbal abuse while at school; these attacks are rooted in anti-Sikh hate and have seen an increase in recent years with many people erroneously associating Sikh's uncut beards and traditional turbans with religious radical groups.

There is a need for public education and discourse to promote awareness of the invaluable contributions of the Sikh community; to combat religious discrimination and bigotry in our society.

Board Chairman Anthony Romano, the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners in conjunction with County Executive Thomas A. DeGise, proclaimed the month of April of each year shall be designated as "Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month" in the County of Hudson and State of New Jersey.

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