

**Santa Clara Unified School District
Santa Clara, California
RESOLUTION # 19-47**

**AFFIRMATION OF OCTOBER AS
HINDU AMERICAN AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH**

WHEREAS, 2019 marks the **126th** anniversary of when Hinduism was officially introduced to the United States by Swami Vivekananda in 1893 at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, and the 118th anniversary of when he founded the Vedanta Society in San Francisco, California in 1900; and

WHEREAS, Hindus are primarily an immigrant community and first started immigrating to California and the United States in the early 1900s, and came in increasing numbers after the lifting of the 1924 Asian Exclusion Act in 1943 and the abolishment of quotas for immigrants based on national origin in 1965; and

WHEREAS, There are an estimated one billion Hindus worldwide and approximately 3.23 million Hindu Americans; and

WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Hindu American population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in California represent diverse ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent; and

WHEREAS, The first Hindu temple in the United States was built in San Francisco, California, and at the dedication of the temple on January 7, 1906, it was proclaimed to be the "First Hindu Temple in the Whole Western World"; and

WHEREAS, There are now over 120 Hindu temples, religious centers, and cultural centers throughout California, and the greater Bay Area is home to over 40 of those temples and centers; and

WHEREAS, California Hindu temples, organizations, and individuals actively engage in seva, a Sanskrit word for selfless service, towards their fellow human beings through charity, public service, and the provision of free medical and legal services; and

WHEREAS, the Hindu American community continues to promote pluralism and tolerance, and peacefully overcome attacks on its identity and practices, whether in the form of bullying, harassment, employment discrimination, or hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have contributed to California's social and cultural fabric especially through the Vedanta philosophy, Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation, yoga, literature, and community service; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans share the entrepreneurial spirit of America and contribute to California's economic vitality, having been pioneers and leaders in Silicon Valley and founded several of its early startups. Hindu Americans have also contributed to many of California's economic sectors and have particularly excelled in the areas of business, law, government and public service, information technology, medicine, and science; and

WHEREAS, the faithful service of the Hindu Americans to our communities and country merits appreciation as an integral thread in the fabric of American plurality; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of Santa Clara Unified School District recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu heritage to our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by the adoption of Resolution # 19-47, Affirmation of the Month of October as Hindu American Appreciation Month, the Board of Trustees of Santa Clara Unified School District seek to afford all students the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history of Hinduism and the contributions of Hindu Americans.

This Resolution was:

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of October 2019, by
the following vote:

AYES: _____ ABSTENTIONS: _____

NOES: _____ ABSENT: _____

President, Board of Education
Santa Clara Unified School District

Clerk, Board of Education
Santa Clara Unified School District