

PROCLAMATION



Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, Diwali, a festival of historic, religious, and cultural significance, is celebrated annually by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists throughout the United States and across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Diwali, derived from the Sanskrit word *Deepavali* meaning "row of lights," symbolizes the triumph of knowledge and truth. Small oil lamps are placed around homes, and prayers are offered for knowledge, peace, compassion, and universal well-being and for Hindus, Diwali symbolizes the victory of good over evil and light over darkness, and marks the beginning of the new year with prayers to Goddess Lakshmi for prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Diwali a Festival of great Significance is celebrated annually by million of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists throughout the Unites States, and across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Buddhists communities which are comprised of mostly Indian and South Asian Americans, as well as other diverse races and ethnicities, constitutes a vital part of the City of Appleton's diverse ethnic and social fabric, and whose language, cultures and religious beliefs have enriched our communities: and

WHEREAS, Diwali brings families and communities together through traditions such as sharing sweets, fireworks, rangoli designs, and acts of charity, fostering unity, joy, and cultural exchange in our diverse society; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, JACOB A. WOODFORD, Mayor of the City of Appleton, do hereby proclaim October 21, 2025, as

DIWALI AWARENESS DAY

in Appleton and encourage residents to learn about the cultural and historical significance of Diwali, to celebrate the values of light, hope, and community, and to honor the many contributions of our Indian American neighbors that enrich the City of Appleton.

Signed and sealed this 26th day September 2025.

JACOB A. WOODFORD

MAYOR OF APPLETON

