

File No. 251118

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 47

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: November 18, 2025

Cmte Board

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: November 14, 2025

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month - November 2025]

2
3 **Resolution recognizing the month of November 2025 as Sikh Awareness and**
4 **Appreciation Month in the City and County of San Francisco.**
5

6 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth-largest religion in the world, with nearly 30,000,000
7 followers, including approximately 750,000 in the United States and roughly half residing in
8 California; and

9 WHEREAS, On April 6, 1899, the San Francisco Chronicle reported the arrival of four
10 Sikh men, the first recorded South Asian pioneers to enter California through San Francisco,
11 marking the beginning of a vibrant and resilient Sikh American community on the West Coast;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, These early Punjabi pioneers came primarily from farming families in the
14 British Indian province of Punjab and many had served in the British Indian Army before
15 migrating through Canada to the United States in search of economic opportunity and
16 freedom; and

17 WHEREAS, By the early 20th century, Sikh Americans were arriving in greater
18 numbers, many entering through the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay, a
19 key gateway for early South Asian immigrants; and

20 WHEREAS, Sikh pioneers worked in lumber mills and on railroad construction before
21 becoming and continue to be among California's most innovative and productive farmers,
22 helping to transform the state's Central Valley into one of the world's most abundant
23 agricultural regions; and

24 WHEREAS, Legislation to authorize Sikhs and other South Asian immigrants to
25 naturalize as United States citizens was not enacted until 1946, underscoring the barriers

1 faced by early Sikh Americans who nonetheless persevered and contributed meaningfully to
2 their adopted homeland; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1956, Dalip Singh Saund, was elected to represent California's 29th
4 District in the U.S. House of Representatives, making him the first Asian American and first
5 Sikh American to be elected to the U.S. Congress; and

6 WHEREAS, The Ghadar ("revolution") Party found its base in San Francisco in 1913,
7 which acted as a home to progressive thought and a crossroads of global ideas, activism, and
8 dissent where freedom of speech and political expression allowed British Indian
9 revolutionaries to organize openly for independence and equality; and

10 WHEREAS, From its base in San Francisco, the Ghadar Party published Ghadar, the
11 first Punjabi-language newspaper in the United States, written and produced by British Indian
12 revolutionaries whose words helped organize and mobilize immigrants around the shared
13 cause of independence and equality; and

14 WHEREAS, Though the British sought to suppress its circulation, the Ghadar Party
15 spread its message from San Francisco to communities across Asia, Africa, and the Pacific,
16 advancing a vision of revolution and freedom for all that connected movements for justice
17 around the world; and

18 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans in San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area have
19 carried forward that legacy of seva (selfless service) and civic leadership through gurdwaras,
20 interfaith partnerships, and public service, reflecting a continued commitment to justice,
21 community, and service; and

22 WHEREAS, For the last several years San Francisco has been home to the Sikh Day
23 Parade and community remembrance events, bringing thousands together to celebrate Sikh
24 culture, unity, and resilience, and to honor the memory of those lost during the 1984 Sikh
25 Genocide and subsequent "decade of disappearances" in India; and

1 WHEREAS, The Sikh American community continues to enrich San Francisco through
2 contributions in business, education, technology, medicine, and public service, reflecting the
3 city's commitment to diversity, equity, and shared progress; and

4 WHEREAS, Since the Federal Bureau of Investigation began tracking anti-Sikh hate
5 crimes in 2015, Sikhs have remained among the most frequently targeted faith groups,
6 underscoring the need for education and solidarity to foster understanding and inclusion; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 hereby recognizes the month of November 2025 as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month,
10 honoring the profound contributions of Sikh Americans to the city, state, and nation; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors celebrates the historic
12 connection between San Francisco and Sikh history, from the arrival of early pioneers in 1899
13 to the revolutionary organizing of the Ghadar Party whose San Francisco base helped spark a
14 global movement for freedom, and acknowledges the continuing civic, cultural, and economic
15 contributions of Sikh Americans across generations; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco reaffirms its
17 commitment to ensuring that all people of faith, including the Sikh community, can practice
18 their religion freely and fearlessly, and stands united against all forms of hate, discrimination,
19 and intolerance while upholding the city's enduring values of equity, dignity, and belonging for
20 all residents.

Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- ☐ 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- ☐ 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- ☐ 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- ☐ 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor inquires..."
- ☐ 5. City Attorney Request
- ☐ 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- ☐ 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- ☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- ☐ 9. Reactivate File No.
- ☐ 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- ☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission
- ☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission ☐ Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

Long Title or text listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: