FILE NO. 251118 RESOLUTION NO.

[Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month - November 2025]

Resolution recognizing the month of November 2025 as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month in the City and County of San Francisco.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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