



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Diwali, the “Festival of Lights” is celebrated annually by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists in Bellevue and around the world; and

Whereas: Diwali also marks the beginning of the new year and is celebrated over five days, each with its own significance and traditions; and

Whereas: The word “Diwali” is a shortened version of the Sanskrit word “Deepavali”, which means “a row of lamps.” During Diwali, celebrants light small oil lamps called “diyas,” place them around the home, and pray for health, knowledge and peace; and

Whereas: Diwali reminds us Bellevue is home to many faiths and traditions and that our diversity makes us stronger; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue acknowledges the historic and current contributions of the South Asian community and supports Diwali celebrations in their promotion of arts, culture, community participation, inclusiveness, and social and cultural connectedness.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, mayor of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **Nov. 12, 2023**, as:

Diwali, the Festival of Lights

in Bellevue and encourage all community members to celebrate Diwali's message of bringing light to the world through tolerance, compassion and building bridges of understanding.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue