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 is celebrated over several days, with traditions and meanings that vary among faiths, cultures and communities; and

Whereas: the word "Diwali" derives from the Sanskrit word "Deepavali," meaning "a row of lamps," and during Diwali, celebrants traditionally light small oil lamps called diyas, symbolizing light overcoming darkness; and

Whereas: Diwali's themes of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair resonate across cultures and offer an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to reflect on shared values of compassion, renewal and community; and

Whereas: Diwali reminds us that Bellevue is home to many faiths, cultures and traditions, and that our diversity strengthens our community; and

Whereas: the City of Bellevue recognizes the historic and ongoing contributions of the South Asian community and supports Diwali celebrations that promote arts, culture, community participation, inclusion and social and cultural connection.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim **November 8, 2026**, as

Diwali

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

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Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue