RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, is one of India's most widely celebrated festivals, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair; and

WHEREAS, Diwali brings families, friends, and communities together to celebrate with traditions that include lighting diyas, sharing food and sweets, cultural performances, music, dance, and acts of generosity; and

WHEREAS, the Indian American and South Asian communities in the Pacific Northwest contribute significantly to the cultural, civic, educational, entrepreneurial, and economic vitality of our region; and

WHEREAS, Northwest Share, under Festál, is organizing the Diwali Lights of India Festival to showcase the rich and diverse heritage of India and to create opportunities for people of all backgrounds to experience, learn about, and celebrate Indian culture; and

WHEREAS, the festival will feature cultural traditions, performances, music, dance, food, and community activities that foster understanding, inclusion, friendship, and connection among the diverse communities of the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the Diwali Lights of India Festival will be held on November 7 from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Armory at Seattle Center, inviting the community to come together in the spirit of celebration, unity, and cultural appreciation; and

WHEREAS, celebrating Diwali provides an opportunity to recognize the many contributions of Indian Americans and the broader South Asian community, while strengthening the bonds that unite our diverse region;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, recognize the

Diwali Lights of India Festival

and encourage all county residents to join in honoring the traditions, culture, and contributions of the Indian and South Asian communities. Let the lights of Diwali shine brightly as a symbol of peace, hope, knowledge, prosperity, and unity for all.

DATED this SEVENTH day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

Sarah Perry, Council Chair, District Three

Rod Dembowski, District One

Rhonda Lewis, District Two

Jorge L. Barón, Council Vice-Chair, District Four

Steffanie Fain, District Five

Claudia Balducci, District Six

Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven

Teresa Mosqueda, District Eight

Reagan Dunn, Council Vice-Chair, District Nine