

BY: M. of A. Rajkumar

COMMEMORATING the Punjabi American community's celebration of Vaisakhi Day, on April 13, 2021, and recognizing April as Punjabi Awareness Month

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor, with pleasure and great pride, the South Asian American community of the State of New York upon the occasion of the celebration of Vaisakhi; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the Punjabi American community's celebration of Vaisakhi Day, on April 13, 2021, and to recognize April as Punjabi Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is one of the most historically significant days of the year for those in India, or of Indian decent, and is celebrated on April 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is an ancient festival marking the Solar New Year, commemorating the month of Vaisakha, and celebrating the spring harvest; it is regionally known by many names but celebrated in broadly similar ways by Hindus, Punjabis and Sikhs; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 100 years celebrating Vaisakhi, and during the early 20th Century, thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific & Eastern Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world and today, there are more than 30 million Sikhs worldwide and an estimated 500,000 Sikh Americans; and

WHEREAS, Those who celebrate Vaisakhi pursue diverse professions, and make rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States, including service as members of the United States Armed Forces and significant contributions to our great nation in agriculture, information technology, small businesses, the hotel industry, trucking, medicine, and technology; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is committed to educating citizens about the world's customs, the value of cultural diversity, tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a culture of mutual understanding, and the diminution of violence; and

WHEREAS, Today, the State of New York seeks to further the diversity of its community and afford all residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared experiences of Punjabi Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commemorate the Punjabi American community's celebration of Vaisakhi Day, on April 13, 2021, and to recognize April as Punjabi Awareness Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Consul General of India, Gurdwaras throughout the State of New York, and various organizations throughout the State of New York.