

Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH
APRIL 2024

WHEREAS, Monroe is enriched by the diversity of its residents, who have cultivated a climate of social tolerance and intellectual pluralism that has sustained the Township throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the world's fifth largest religion with nearly 30 million adherents, including roughly 500,000 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, founded by Guru Nanak in the 15th century, the Sikh monotheistic tradition teaches its adherents to practice the universal principles of truthful living, service to humanity, and devotion to God; and

WHEREAS, believing that every human being, regardless of race, gender, or creed, is equal in the eyes of God, Sikhism emerged as a pioneer of social justice, with female participation in religious ceremonies widely encouraged and inter-faith efforts to fight oppression regularly pursued; and

WHEREAS, despite their progressive principles and charitable deeds, the American Sikh community commonly experiences discrimination, often by individuals who are unaware of the beliefs and practices of the faith; and

WHEREAS, although the Sikh American community continues to peacefully overcome attacks on its cultural identity, the State of New Jersey and Township of Monroe are now compelled to promote public awareness of the Sikh Faith and memorialize the lasting contributions of its Sikh residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEPHEN DALINA, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, New Jersey do hereby proclaim the month of April 2024 to be designated as **Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month** in Monroe Township.

Dated: April 1, 2024



STEPHEN DALINA, MAYOR