



Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Diwali, known as the “Festival of Lights,” is a five day Indian and Hindu festival that is a celebration of light, symbolizing the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness; Diwali is a day dedicated to inner purity and noble character, encouraging all to extend forgiveness and let misgivings be forgotten; and*

WHEREAS, *in Nepal and Bhutan, Tihar is celebrated similarly to Diwali as a festival of lights celebrating peace, happiness and prosperity; and*

WHEREAS, *the celebration of Diwali and Tihar as the victory of good over evil refers to the light of higher knowledge dispelling all ignorance; light is a symbol of hope and positive energy and the awakening that comes from it will bring joy and peace; and*

WHEREAS, *Diwali and Tihar are commonly celebrated in families by performing traditional activities together in their homes; small clay lamps are lit to signify the triumph of good over evil, firecrackers are burst, and families and friends share sweets with one another; the celebrations have also traditionally marked the end of the harvest when there is a sense of joy and enough food for the community to celebrate; and*

WHEREAS, *Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh are proud to have significant Indian, Bhutanese, and Nepali populations in our region and we are grateful for their dedication to their faith and our community.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, along with City of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto by virtue of the authority vested in us, do hereby proclaim November 9-13, 2015 as “The Festival of Lights Week” in Allegheny County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 9th day of November, 2015.

Rich Fitzgerald

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