

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON,
COLETTA ZAPATA, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER,
WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AUGUST 15, 2024 AS
INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

- WHEREAS,** India is the largest free democratic country in the world, her beauty and rich cultural heritage are unmatched; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On August 15, 1947, India gained her independence from two hundred years of colonial rule with peaceful civil disobedience and nonviolence with the movement in turn becoming a new weapon to fight against inequality and injustice in the world; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Indian independence movement was led by patriots like Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Pandit Nehru, Veerapandiya Kattabomman, Rani Laxmi Bai, BR Ambedkar, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mangal Pandey, Sardar Patel, Lala Lajpat Rai, C.R Das, Maulana Azad, Raja Gopalachari, Rani Gaidinliu, later became a model of Civil Rights movement around the globe, including the movement led by Martin Luther King Jr. in the U.S.A; *and*
- WHEREAS,** After generations of subjugation under British rule and a long campaign of nonviolent protests led by Mahatma Gandhi, the 1947 Indian Independence Act ushered in a new age of freedom for the people of India; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 1950, India became a republic and adopted a pluralist and democratic Constitution that gave equal rights to all citizens regardless of faith and other identity markers and guaranteed there would be no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, color or sex, with the Constituent Assembly of India creating a most democratic constitution of its own, taking clues from the British, American and French constitutions; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Since declaring independence, the people and government of India have worked to gain political, social, and economic power on the world stage, with India showing an unsurpassed growth in education, health, agriculture, and technology since its independence 77 years ago; *and*
- WHEREAS,** India's Independence Day is celebrated by over 1.4 billion people across the country with flag-hoisting ceremonies, kite-flying, and parades and is not only a celebration of political liberation but also a tribute to the enduring spirit of its people, who demonstrated remarkable courage, resilience, and unity in their quest

for freedom, thus inspiring future generations to uphold the principles of justice, equality, and democracy; *and*

WHEREAS, 29 million Indians reside outside India and overseas Indians comprising the world's largest overseas diaspora, with India being the 9th largest country of origin among Boston's foreign-born population, who contribute to the city in countless different fields, including medicine, academia, public service, entrepreneurship, arts, and more; *and*

WHEREAS, India is a composite civilization – a nation extraordinarily unique as a cultural mosaic of people embracing a prodigious diversity of ethnic groups, religions, languages, customs, traditions, clothing, manners, food habits, climatic conditions and natural resources, and yet presenting an underlying unity; *and*

WHEREAS, This year, India will proudly mark its 78th Independence Day on the 15th of August, honoring 77 years of her treasured freedom; a nation proud of her heritage, including giving the world the numeral “zero”; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council recognizes the profound significance of India's Independence Day and joins with Indians and friends of India worldwide in celebrating the country's achievements, honoring its rich history, and reaffirming our commitment to solidarity, friendship, and cooperation with the people of India; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hereby recognizes August 15th as India's Independence Day, affirming our shared commitment to freedom, democracy, and prosperity, and pledging to work together towards a brighter future for all; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council encourages all residents of Boston to join the City Council in raising the flags of India and the United States outside Boston City Hall to heartily celebrate India; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That on this day, and in recognition of India's Independence Day, the Boston City Council orders the Property Management Department to raise the flag of India on the third flagpole on City Hall plaza in place of the City of Boston Flag.

Filed on: August 7, 2024