

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, ARROYO,
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CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY AND INDIAN CULTURAL DAY ON AUGUST 15TH ANNUALLY AS A BOSTON MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY

- WHEREAS,** On August 15th, 1947, India gained its independence following years of nonviolent resistance led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi; *and*
- WHEREAS,** For 200 long years, Indians endured the harsh clutches of British Colonial oppression; *and*
- WHEREAS,** During this dark period, they not only suffered economic exploitation in favor of British ethnocentrism but also faced the brutal reality of mass massacres; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These massacres included the Jallianwala Bagh, a response to their protest against the Rowlatt Act, along with slavery, abduction of children, assaults, and devastating family separation; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Britishers looted \$45 trillion dollars from India by collecting high taxes and took away India's Koh-i-Noor diamond, which is estimated today to be worth \$20 billion dollars, resulting in an incomparable direct loss of wealth in India that continues to hinder the country's economy in the present day; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Through their great plight of forced famine, exploitation, and degradation by the British of their dignity and humanity, they continued to resist and fight for their bloodline; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi used his truth-focused strategy to direct three nonviolent resistance movements, which included the Non Cooperation Movement during 1919-1922, the Civil Disobedience Movement, the Salt Satyagraha Movements from 1930-1931, and the Quit India Movement from 1940-1942; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These inspirational movements utilized strategies against the British colonial government such as peaceful demonstrations, resistance to anti-Indian legislation, and the boycott of British institutions, goods, and elections; *and*

WHEREAS, The successful outcomes of these movements ultimately led to a meeting organized by the Constituent Assembly of India on the night of August 14th, 1947, in which Jawaharlal Nehru read aloud the “A Tryst with Destiny” speech proclaiming India as an independent country; *and*

WHEREAS, According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Surveys conducted between 2010-2019, approximately 4.9 million Indians live in the United States, making the Indian diaspora the tenth largest in the country; Additionally, Massachusetts houses an estimated 60,000 Indians; *and*

WHEREAS, Indians contribute largely to the overall wealth of Boston through their far-reaching participation in the founding and operating of integral businesses and innovations in nationwide technological industries; *and*

WHEREAS, The Indian community plays a vital role in contributing to the cultural tapestry of the United States, through culinary, textile, educational, and health innovations that are indigenous to India such as cumin, cotton, yoga, and even the number zero; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston is a front-runner in fostering an equitable and inclusive environment for all, along with its vast amount of educational institutions, career opportunities, and desirable quality of life; therefore, we must uphold those values by supporting the traditions that are embedded within the hearts of the Indian community;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

ORDERED: That the City of Boston recognizes Indian Independence Day and Indian Cultural Day as a municipal holiday annually on August 15th; Jai Hind, Jai Bharat, translated as “Victory to India and Long Live India”.

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