

PROCLAMATION

By Mayor and Council – Township of North Brunswick

WHEREAS, SewaDiwali is an initiative by the Hindu American Community to serve people in need through food drives and other endeavors; and

WHEREAS, “Sewa” is an act of selfless service embedded in Hindu tradition and culture. Diwali is a Hindu festival of lights that celebrates the victory of light over darkness; and

WHEREAS, this year while celebrating Diwali, the Hindu American community collected and donated 630,000 pounds of food for 200 food pantries, soup kitchens and food banks around 225 townships in 32 states in the country; and

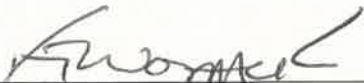
WHEREAS, over 2500 volunteers, ranging from age 7 to 70, representing approximately 250+ Hindu, Jain and Sikh temples and organizations, participated in SewaDiwali, bringing light and joy to those in need; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers included hundreds of elementary, middle, and high school students participating in this unique initiative which provided them an opportunity to give back to the less fortunate as they look forward to continuing to engage with their communities; and

WHEREAS, SewaDiwali which initiated in 2018, the Hindu American community intends to continue the important tradition of food drives and has given over 1.6 million pounds of food to over 350 food pantries, soup kitchens and food banks and will continue to collect nonperishable foods to meet the rising need for food across several states; and

WHEREAS, due to the success of this initiative in New Jersey and 32 other states, the Hindu American community plans to expand this hunger-fighting program across many other states in America.

NOW THEREFORE, WE the Mayor and Council of the Township of North Brunswick, **Do Hereby Proclaim** and express our sincere thanks and congratulations to the Hindu American volunteers and encourage all of our residents to support the initiative of Hindu American community efforts to fight hunger and value human lives.



Francis M. Womack III
Mayor of North Brunswick



Rajesh Mehta
Council President



Lisa Russo
Municipal Clerk

December 18, 2023

