



**A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL
OF DIWALI IN NEW ALBANY**

WHEREAS, Diwali is one of the most celebrated festivals of great significance to Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists and more, and is celebrated annually by millions throughout the United States, and across the globe; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Diwali, the U.S. Congress has officially passed a unanimous resolution in 2007 and has since been a part of official White House celebrations; and

WHEREAS, the Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist communities which are comprised of mostly Indian and South Asian Americans, as well as other diverse races and ethnicities, constitute a vital part of the City of New Albany's diverse ethnic and social fabric, whose languages, cultures, and beliefs have enriched our community; and

WHEREAS, the word "Diwali" is a shortened version of the Sanskrit term "Deepavali," which means "a row of lamps"; and

WHEREAS, Diwali is a festival of lights during which celebrants light small oil lamps, called diyas, placed around the home, and pray for knowledge, peace, and universal well-being; and

WHEREAS, the rows of lamps symbolize the light of knowledge and truth within the individual that signifies the destruction of all negative qualities—violence, anger, jealousy, ignorance, greed, fear, or suffering; Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil; and

WHEREAS, Diwali renews the commitment to upholding values of truth, non-harming, charitable giving, and community service.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor of the City of New Albany, Counties of Franklin and Licking, State of Ohio, on behalf of council and the residents of New Albany, declare November 11, 2023, as **Diwali Celebration Day**, to acknowledge the historical, cultural, and global significance of Diwali, to recognize the contributions of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists to New Albany and the world, and to convey the best wishes to everyone celebrating Diwali.

WHEREBY, I set my hand and seal this 11th day of November, 2023.

A handwritten signature in green ink, reading "Sloan T. Spalding", is written over a horizontal line.

Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor