



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAMATION
Recognizing BAPS 50th
Anniversary in America**

WHEREAS, BAPS is a worldwide Hindu denomination dedicated to fostering faith, inspiring service, and promoting better living; and

WHEREAS, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj (1921-2016), established the first BAPS Hindu *mandir* in the United States of America on August 4, 1974 in New York City; and

WHEREAS, 2024 marks fifty years of service and faith in the United States for BAPS; and

WHEREAS, over the last fifty years, BAPS has grown to over 102 *mandirs* across the United States; and

WHEREAS, these *mandirs* offer a welcoming and spiritual space for thousands of families, as well as worship, fellowship, communal meals, education, and activities for young and old, creating a true home for the faithful; and

WHEREAS, BAPS *mandirs* offer youth activities that encourage and mold young people to live lives of integrity and character that reflect our highest ideals; and

WHEREAS, BAPS *mandirs* bring His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj's words—"In the joy of others lies our own"—to life through support for those in need, whether through a variety of community efforts such as health fairs, food drives, or disaster relief work; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers of BAPS have, time and again, answered the call to serve, humbly, selflessly, and inspirationally; and

WHEREAS, BAPS *mandirs* have a storied history of helping immigrants to the United States retain their connection to their faith but fully embrace and join in American civic life; and

WHEREAS, BAPS *mandirs* add to the rich tapestry of diversity that makes America and Wake County, NC a beautiful place to call home; and



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WHEREAS, the BAPS *mandir* in Morrisville, NC is a proud example of how houses of worship contribute to the well-being of their congregants and local communities; and

WHEREAS, the BAPS *mandir* in Morrisville, NC hopes to serve its 5000 congregants and the local community with even greater zeal in the next fifty years and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners congratulates BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha and declares August 4, 2024 as "BAPS Day" in Wake County, North Carolina.

ADOPTED this 8th day of July 2024.

Shinica Thomas, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners