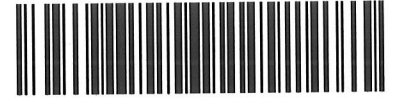




City of Chicago



SR2020-583

Office of the City Clerk Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 7/22/2020

Sponsor(s): Hadden (49)
Rodriguez Sanchez (33)
Ramirez-Rosa (35)
Martin (47)
Osterman (48)
Reilly (42)

Type: Resolution

Title: Recognition of India's 74th anniversary of Independence Day and call for condemnation of violence against certain castes and faith groups

Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Health and Human Relations

“CHICAGO RESOLUTION HONORING INDIA’S REPUBLIC AND DEMOCRACY”
**A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF CHICAGO AS A WELCOMING AND
INCLUSIVE CITY,**
**EXPRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL’S SOLIDARITY WITH CHICAGO’S SOUTH
ASIAN COMMUNITY REGARDLESS OF RELIGION AND CASTE,**
HONORING INDIA’S 72ND REPUBLIC DAY,
**AND UPHOLDING THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND SECULAR PROVISIONS
OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION**

1. WHEREAS, recognizing that the City of Chicago is a sanctuary city, welcomes all regardless of their background; and
2. WHEREAS, the Chicago City Council expresses solidarity with Chicago’s South Asian community regardless of religion and caste; and
3. WHEREAS, India will celebrate its 72nd Republic Day on January 26, 2021, is the world’s largest democracy, and has long shared a unique and important relationship with the United States in promoting common democratic values and human rights; and
4. WHEREAS, India is the birthplace of four major world religions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism, is home to the world’s second-largest Muslim population, and has historic Christian, Jewish, and Zoroastrian populations; and
5. WHEREAS, India’s Constitution mandates a secular state that upholds the rights of all citizens to the freedoms of religion, expression, speech and to equal treatment before the law.
6. WHEREAS, the U.S. Government’s Commission on International Religious Freedom has recommended that India be designated as a country of particular concern for “engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA)” and that the federal government “[i]mpose targeted sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals’ assets and/or barring their entry into the United States under human rights-related financial and visa authorities, citing specific religious freedom violations;
7. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Chicago City Council rejects violence in the name of any faith, condemns all supremacist thought, calls for an end of divisions along faith lines.

8. RESOLVED, that in Kashmir, the Indian government should take all necessary steps to restore rights for all the people of Kashmir. Restrictions on dissent, such as preventing peaceful protests or shutting or slowing down the Internet, weaken democracy. The Chicago City Council has been disappointed by the measures that the government of India has taken with the implementation and aftermath of the National Register of Citizens in Assam and the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act into law. These measures are inconsistent with the country's long tradition of secularism and with sustaining a multi-ethnic and multi-religious democracy.

9. RESOLVED, the City Council go on record urging the Government of India to:
 - a) Respect the human rights of all people and adhere to international human rights law,
 - b) Condemn, at the highest levels, all religiously motivated violence, including violence which targets religious minorities,
 - c) Prosecute anyone actively inciting violence, including violence against peaceful protestors and journalists,

10. RESOLVED, That the City Council go on record urging our congressional delegation and new federal administration to support legislation and other action promoting secularism and tolerance in India.