



Legislation Details (With Text)

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Enactment date:	10/22/2024	Enactment #:	731
Effective date:	10/22/2024		
Title:	WHEREAS, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha is a worldwide Hindu denomination dedicated to fostering faith, inspiring service, and promoting better living; and		
Sponsors:	Theresa Kail-Smith, All Members		
Indexes:	PROCLAMATION - MRS. KAIL-SMITH		
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10/22/2024	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass

WHEREAS, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha 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 the year 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 100 *mandirs* across the United States. 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, following in the example of His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, the volunteers of BAPS have answered the call to serve through support for those in need, a variety of community efforts such as health fairs, food drives, or disaster relief work, and have done so 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. They have added to the rich tapestry of diversity that makes the City of Pittsburgh and America a beautiful place to call home; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha on the organization's commitment over the last fifty years to selfless service in communities across the United States, including the City of Pittsburgh, and extend to BAPS volunteers a sincere appreciation for their meaningful contributions to others; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare, Tuesday, October 22, 2024 to be “**BAPS Day**” in the City of Pittsburgh.