

Office of the Mayor

# Proclamation

“Diwali – Festival of Lights  
October 17<sup>th</sup> - 19, 2009

**WHEREAS**, the largest democracy in the world i.e. India, the Indian community worldwide and in Aurora, Illinois; Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, Balagokulam, SEWA USA, individual families of Indian origin and other organizations invite everyone to join in the celebration of “Diwali” the “Festival of Lights” from 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009 until 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009. It is a national festival of India; and

**WHEREAS**, the sole purpose of the celebration is to create and spread an awareness of the importance of this festival which has a deep meaning i.e. to signify victory of good over the evil within an individual. While Diwali is popularly known as the “festival of lights”, the most significant spiritual meaning is “the awareness of the inner light”; and

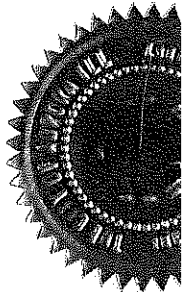
**WHEREAS**, HSS, Balagokulam SEWA USA, and other organizations are celebrating Diwali in a unique way; by conducting a “Food Drive” for the under privileged people in Aurora and surrounding areas. Diwali food drive is one such attempt which can bring the light of hope to the needy people in this difficult economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Aurora is a city that embraces cultural diversity and celebrates the unique practices and festivals of its multi-cultural, multi-country background residents. The vast Indian community in Aurora, Illinois has been celebrating Diwali for the last several years; and

**WHEREAS**, any person regardless of their age, race, background, belief, can benefit by celebrating the “Diwali – festival of lights” because the meaning behind it is “remove the darkness from within”, the method being the “Food Drive” being arranged by HSS/Balagokulam;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Thomas J. Weisner, Mayor of the City of Aurora, Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to be “**Diwali - Festival of Lights Week**” in the City of Aurora and encourage all Aurora residents to learn about “Diwali” and participate in the “Food Drive” arranged by HSS and promote the atmosphere of harmony and “giving back” attitude in the society.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Aurora, Illinois to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October 2009.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Weisner", is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Weisner, Mayor  
City of Aurora