

ANN JOHNSTON  
Mayor

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Vice Mayor  
District 2



## CITY OF STOCKTON

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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Dear Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society and Sikh American community:

Congratulations on your 100th anniversary! The century of your existence within the City of Stockton gives me much reason to welcome you into the soul of our grand city. It is fitting that Gurdwara Sahib Stockton, nestled as it is inside the Central Valley, has been central to so many crucial chapters in world history.

The richness of your history can barely be touched within the contents of this letter, yet I am delighted to remind you that Sikhs were the earliest people from South Asia to immigrate to the United States. Your ancestors — the Sikh pioneers who founded Stockton Gurdwara in 1912 — deserve great credit for paving the way for Indians to settle in this country. The City of Stockton salutes them for their love of freedom, respect for civil rights, care of their families, service to their communities, dedication to earnest business endeavors, and sheer hard work.

The City of Stockton has a fine and long tradition of contributing to the defense of this great nation and preservation of its unique freedoms. As such, the city could not possibly be prouder to have broken racial barriers by giving this nation both the first Sikh in the United States Army and the first Sikh in the United States Congress. The legacies of people like Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind and Judge Dalip Singh Saund will inspire us forevermore.

No thanks to the Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society could be complete without recognition of its embrace of freedom of the press. The printing press which now graces the floor of the Ghadri Baba Museum on the gurdwara grounds represents the iron determination of the Sikh pioneers to advance the peaceful cooperation of humanity. They exercised their right to a free press with great gusto and steadfast hearts after the example set forth by our own American founding fathers.

I am pleased to announce that we will change the name of the street on which the gurdwara resides from "South Grant Street" to "Sikh Temple Street." This gift from the City of Stockton to the Sikh American community marks our one hundred year old relationship. We look forward to another century of growing together in wisdom and grace.

A blue ink cursive signature of Ann Johnston.

ANN JOHNSTON  
MAYOR

