

# City of Sparks

## Commendation

**WHEREAS**, "Faith Forum" a one-of-a-kind, weekly, multi-faith dialogue on religion, published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* will complete 10 years in print on February 11, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, this widely read column is dedicated to constructive and respectful conversation, providing a successful partnership in fostering mutual understanding, trust, and loyalty in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, religious statesman Rajan Zed guides a panel of leaders of various religions and denominations, to produce a Faith Forum on Sundays in the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, involving important religious issues affecting the region; and

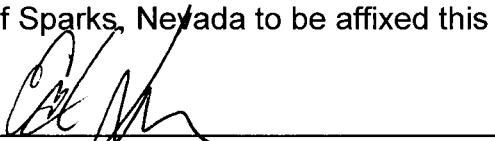
**WHEREAS**, religion is complex, powerful and much more than any one particular tradition. While there are differences between religions, there are also interconnections and interdependencies between religions, and different people have more in common than in conflict; and

**WHEREAS**, many distinguished area faith leaders have contributed to the Faith Forum over the years and their efforts help make northern Nevada a more harmonious and loving society; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Reno Gazette-Journal* has hosted the Faith Forum for years, and continuing to do so will continue to benefit this community; and

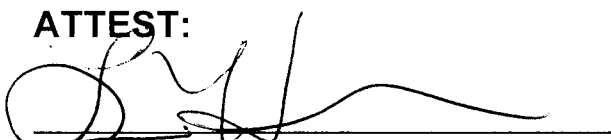
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ED LAWSON**, Mayor of the City of Sparks, Nevada, join with the City Council in expressing sincere appreciation for the important work of Rajan Zed and all contributors to the Faith Forum.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Sparks, Nevada to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.



ED LAWSON, Mayor

ATTEST:



LISA HUNDERMAN, City Clerk



Faith Forum panelists currently include:

- Rajan Zed, Religious Statesman, Universal Society of Hinduism
- Robert W. Chorey, Pastor, Our Lady of Snows Catholic Church
- Charles T. Durante, Rector, St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral
- Monique Jacobs, Director of Faith Formation, Roman Catholic Diocese of Reno
- Lauri Anne Reinhart, Director of Lay Ministry Formation Leadership, Roman Catholic Diocese of Reno
- Dr. Steve Bond, Co-Lead Pastor, Summit Christian Church
- Bryan J. Smith, Co-Lead Pastor, Summit Christian Church
- Dr. Sherif A. Elfass, President, Northern Nevada Muslim Community
- Stephen R. Karcher, Presiding Priest, St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
- Matthew T. Fisher, Resident Priest, Reno Buddhist Center
- ElizaBeth Webb Beyer, Jewish Rabbi
- Michael L. Peterson, NW NV Media Specialist, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Dr. Nancy Lee Cecil, Baha'i Teacher
- Brian E. Melendez, American Indian Spirituality Scholar
- Dr. Kenneth G. Lucey, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy/Religion, UNR
- Karen A. Foster, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada
- Swami Vedananda, Hindu Monk, Vedanta Society of Northern California
- Dawn M. Blundell, Senior Pastor, Epworth United Methodist Church
- Anthony Shafton, Author and atheist thinker.
- Brett McGinness, Engagement Editor, *Reno Gazette Journal*