



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Steven D. Rhoads

Senator Steve Rhoads Celebrates Diwali Mela Festival in Hicksville

STEVEN D. RHOADS October 5, 2023

| ISSUE: **DIWALI, HICKSVILLE, COMMUNITY EVENT**



On Sunday, September 17, Senator Rhoads joined Hicksville's AsaMai Hindu Temple to celebrate the festival of Diwali Mela. One of the most popular festivals of Hinduism, Diwali is a celebration of the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. During Sunday's festival, Diwali lights were illuminated, in accordance with the tradition of brightly lit temples, homes, shops, and office buildings during the observance. It was a joyous occasion filled with vibrant colors, cultural performances, and delicious food. Senator Rhoads was proud to be a part of such a beautiful celebration that

brings our community together.

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State Senator Steve Rhoads said, “It was an honor to attend such a joyful and important event for our Long Island community. The 19th Annual Diwali Mela celebrating the Hindu festival of lights is a wonderful opportunity to experience the beauty of India’s culture, history, and rich traditions. Special thank you to the President of the Afghan Hindu Association, Sunder Luthra, and two of their past Presidents, Sena Lund and Gobind Bathija, and Nanda Sundri, Secretary of the Afghan Hindu Association, for organizing this event. This enlightening event provides the opportunity for all Long Islanders of different faiths to join in this important celebration and share in the joy of the season to help promote peace, understanding, and fellowship. It’s great to see Hicksville’s growing Hindu community sharing their traditions making us a stronger, more diverse, and more welcoming community in the process.”