



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director
Michael Cogle, Deputy Director
Leslie R. Miller, Human Services Coordinator

Date: September 8, 2016

Subject: EASTSIDE WELCOMING WEEK PROCLAMATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor join the Mayors of Bellevue, Issaquah, Redmond and Sammamish in proclaiming the week beginning April 16th as Eastside Welcoming Week in Kirkland, Washington.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Eastside Welcoming Week is part of the national Welcoming Week created by the organization Welcoming America. The cities of Kirkland, Bellevue, Issaquah, Redmond and Sammamish are joining communities across the country in celebrating the ways that immigrants and refugees make cities stronger economically, socially, and culturally.

Welcoming America recognizes that when American communities create an inclusive and warm environment to newcomers, everyone benefits. Immigrants and refugees are encouraged and enabled to share their many talents and contribute to the life of their neighborhoods. You will find out more information about Welcoming America and Welcoming Week at this website:

<https://www.welcomingamerica.org/programs/welcoming-week>.

The Mayor and Councilmembers are invited to attend the Eastside Welcoming kick-off event on September 16th at 2 pm at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center. This event is sponsored by the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition.

Debbie Lacy with the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition will be present to accept the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the population on the Eastside has grown rapidly since 2010, increasing by over 79,000 in the last six years; and

WHEREAS, 30% of these newcomers have arrived from places outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, more than one third of Eastside residents now speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, diversity is the lifeblood of our community, bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, leadership, and hard workers; and

WHEREAS, our success depends on ensuring that all our residents feel welcome here;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE MAYORS OF BELLEVUE, ISSAQUAH, KIRKLAND, REDMOND, AND SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON, proclaim September 16 through 25, 2016, as

EASTSIDE WELCOMING WEEK

in our cities and call on all our residents to join together to build stronger communities across the Eastside.

John Stokes, Mayor
City of Bellevue

Fred Butler, Mayor
City of Issaquah

Date

Date

Amy Walen, Mayor
City of Kirkland

John Marchione, Mayor
City of Redmond

Date

Date

Don Gerend, Mayor
City of Sammamish

Date