CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: James Lopez, Assistant City Manager
David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator

Date: September 8, 2020

Subject: EASTSIDE WELCOMING WEEK PROCLAMATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That Mayor Sweet join the mayors of Bellevue, Issaquah, Redmond and Sammamish in proclaiming September 18 through September 27, 2020 as Eastside Welcoming Week.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The Mayor has proclaimed Eastside Welcoming Week alongside other Eastside cities since 2016. Eastside Welcoming Week is part of 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 exploring ways to capitalize on diversity as an asset and striving to create a culture and policies that ensure everyone can belong and thrive by addressing disparities, countering hate, understanding history, and helping neighbors come together.

In recognition of Welcoming Week, the City is joining other Eastside cities in co-sponsoring a virtual summit to explore historical legacies and learn about local anti-racism efforts. Titled "Bridging History and Story: Building the Next Chapter for Racial Equity", the virtual summit will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 26th, 2020. This community event is hosted by Eastside For All and the Eastside Race and Leadership Coalition. Event registration information will be posted to the City's website, and community members are encouraged to attend and learn more about ways they can commit to helping make Kirkland a welcoming place where all people belong.

This is one of many efforts by the City to strive towards the values articulated in the Welcoming America Standard, a roadmap for communities to become more inclusive toward immigrants, other newcomers, and all residents. Launched in 2009, Welcoming America has spurred a growing movement across the United States, with one in eight Americans living in a Welcoming Community. The City of Kirkland has been a Welcoming America member since 2017.