



CITY OF KIRKLAND
City Manager's Office
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
425.587.3001

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Joy Johnston, Interim Communications Program Manager
David Wolbrecht, Senior Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Date: August 26, 2021

Subject: EASTSIDE WELCOMING WEEK PROCLAMATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That Mayor Sweet join the mayors of Bellevue, Issaquah, Redmond and Sammamish in proclaiming September 10 through September 19, 2021 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, Kirkland's City Hall for All event will focus on creating a more equitable Kirkland where everyone has a sense of belonging. City Hall for All will be a virtual event this year and will be held on September 18, 2021. This year's event features Mr. Delbert Richardson who is a self-taught community scholar and second-generation storyteller of the national award-winning *The "Unspoken" Truths American History Traveling Museum*. With the use of authentic artifacts, storyboards, and the ancient art of "storytelling," Mr. Richardson teaches American History through an Afro-centric lens which centers those voices of Black people who often are omitted and erased. This unique interdisciplinary approach to teaching challenges and inspires participants of all ages to be curious regarding their beliefs and perceptions as they relate to American History. City Hall for All also includes important and collaborative discussions about how Kirkland is shaped through planning and how to lift up all voices and get involved in these processes. More information is available at www.kirklandwa.gov/CityHallforAll. Additionally, the City is joining other Eastside cities in co-sponsoring a virtual event on September 17 on "Equitable Economic Development: Local Updates, Transformative Models, and Opportunities for Action." More information will be posted the City's website as the event details are published.

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.

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** the Eastside cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, and Sammamish have jointly celebrated Eastside Welcoming Week for the past five years; and
- WHEREAS,** these cities recognize the importance of ensuring that all residents feel safe, secure, and welcome; and
- WHEREAS,** East King County is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse regions in Washington State, with over 30% of our residents coming from places outside of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** realizing our vision for a welcoming community requires actively addressing the lived experiences of those in our community who do not feel welcome, safe, valued, or included; and
- WHEREAS,** recent events have highlighted the historic and current impacts of individual, institutional, and systemic racism that result in harmful disparities in education, employment, income, housing, criminal justice, and quality of life, as well as sense of belonging; and
- WHEREAS,** our community, like others across the nation, has structures, systems, and policies that contribute to injustice, racial inequality, and discriminatory treatment against residents who were born in another country, are Black, Indigenous, other People of Color, LGBTQ, and other identities; and
- WHEREAS,** to capitalize on diversity as an asset, our community must strive to create a culture and environment that ensure everyone can belong and thrive;
- NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE MAYORS OF BELLEVUE, ISSAQUAH, KIRKLAND, REDMOND, AND SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON,** jointly proclaim September 10-19, 2021, as

EASTSIDE WELCOMING WEEK

and invite the community to engage in opportunities during Eastside Welcoming Week and beyond to learn, connect across differences, and take joint action to achieve a welcoming, equitable, and inclusive community.

DocuSigned by:

Lynne Robinson

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue

DocuSigned by:

Penny Sweet

Penny Sweet, Mayor
City of Kirkland

DocuSigned by:

Karen Moran

Karen Moran, Mayor
City of Sammamish

DocuSigned by:

Mary Lou Pauly

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor
City of Issaquah

DocuSigned by:

Angela Birney

Angela Birney, Mayor
City of Redmond

