



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001  
[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager  
David Wolbrecht, Communications Program Manager

**Date:** August 25, 2022

**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 be held on September 17, 2022, starting at 10 a.m. The virtual 2-hour symposium will consist of three facilitated discussions. Attendees will be invited to actively participate or just listen to the discussion. The discussion topics include how we plan, live, and work in Kirkland and will explore what it means to be a belonging city and ways businesses can expand their client base with more diverse customers. More information on the event can be found on the City's website: <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/CityHallforAll>

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 six 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,** 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, LGBTQIA+, Latinx, 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;

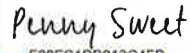
**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE MAYORS OF BELLEVUE, ISSAQUAH, KIRKLAND, REDMOND, AND SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON,** jointly proclaim September 9-18, 2022 as


**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.

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 Lynne Robinson, Mayor  
 City of Bellevue

DocuSigned by:  
  
CEFF9F062907480  
 Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor  
 City of Issaquah

DocuSigned by:  
  
F38FC40B813C4FB  
 Penny Sweet, Mayor  
 City of Kirkland

DocuSigned by:  
  
906113111918429  
 Angela Birney, Mayor  
 City of Redmond

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2076849FC0344C4  
 Kali Clark, Mayor  
 City of Sammamish

