

**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.

DocuSigned by:  
*Lynne Robinson*  
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Lynne Robinson, Mayor  
City of Bellevue

DocuSigned by:  
*Penny Sweet*  
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Penny Sweet, Mayor  
City of Kirkland

DocuSigned by:  
*Kali Clark*  
20EC8A9FC0334C6...  
Kali Clark, Mayor  
City of Sammamish

DocuSigned by:  
*Mary Lou Pauly*  
CEFF9F802CD7408...  
Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor  
City of Issaquah

DocuSigned by:  
*Angela Birney*  
96C1157C191B4E9...  
Angela Birney, Mayor  
City of Redmond

