



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 19, 2016

To: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

From: Mark Manuel, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator
Parks & Community Services and Planning & Community Development Departments

Subject: Welcoming Week – September 16-25, 2016

Welcoming week is an annual series of events across the nation. Communities bring together immigrants and US-born residents in a spirit of unity to raise awareness of the benefits of welcoming everyone – including new Americans. Last year, there were 245 events in over 80 communities during Welcoming Week, with more than 22,000 people participating.

Momentum is building in the welcoming movement; more and more communities across the United States and the world are recognizing that immigrants and refugees make our communities economically, socially, and culturally stronger.

The Eastside Refugee Immigrant Coalition is spearheading “Welcoming Eastside” a collaboration across eastside municipalities to bring together a menu of Welcoming events and activities throughout East King County. In honor of “Welcoming Eastside” a joint proclamation will be signed by Mayors of participating eastside cities. City of Bellevue activities will include a Cultural Conversations event with a Welcoming theme and the display of a new photo project highlighting our diversity in the community.

This important week is part of a broader initiative based on the belief that we all do better when we belong. A sense of belonging, attachment to one’s community, and connection with others fosters increased safety, health, and happiness.

Welcoming week is an initiative of Welcoming America. They connect a broad network of nonprofits and local governments and support them in developing plans, programs, and policies that transform our communities into vibrant places where people respect each other and everyone’s talents are valued and cultivated.

Attachment: Proclamation
