



DATE: September 17, 2018

TO: Mayor Chelminiak and City Councilmembers

FROM: Elaine Acacio, Diversity and Inclusion Program Administrator
452-4246
City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: Welcoming Week

From September 14-23 Bellevue, along with other Eastside cities, non-profit partners, faith organizations and community groups will be hosting a variety of activities in honor of "Welcoming Week." This annual series of events, reinforces the inclusive environment Bellevue is known for. Further, it recognizes the importance of engaging immigrants, refugees and longtime residents. Locally spearheaded by the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition, Welcoming Week is now in its third year in the region and has over thirty local participating organizations, including Eastside municipalities.

Strong cities in the 21st century deliberately work to connect residents from different backgrounds to leverage the advantages diversity brings. In 2017, the City of Bellevue officially became a member of the national Welcoming America network. Welcoming America is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that supports local cross-sector efforts dedicated to ensuring an inclusive environment for new and longtime residents. Nationwide last year, there were over 700 events in 300 communities for Welcoming Week.

Regionally, Welcoming Week is a prime opportunity to collaborate with our local partners and advance the city's goals. With over twenty-five events being held on the Eastside alone, we reinforce our commitment to inclusion and the City Council Vision that, "Bellevue Welcomes the World. Our Diversity is our Strength." Events are open to everyone and include resource fairs, movie screenings, community dialogues, art events, cultural celebrations and more.

Attachments:

- A. Proclamation
- B. 2018 Eastside Welcoming Week Events