

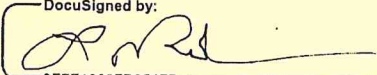
PROCLAMATION

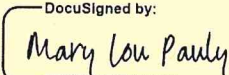
- WHEREAS,** the Eastside cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, and Sammamish have jointly celebrated Eastside Welcoming Week for the past seven years; and
- WHEREAS,** these cities recognize the importance of ensuring that all residents feel safe, secure, and welcome; and
- WHEREAS,** East King County is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse regions in Washington State, with over 35% of our residents coming from places outside of the United States and 38% of residents speaking a language other than English at home; and
- WHEREAS,** in our highly mobile region, nearly 1 in 5 residents has lived in their current residence for less than one year; 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, including those who hold intersectional identities (LGBTQIA+, faith-based cultures, people with visible and invisible disabilities, etc.); and
- WHEREAS,** to capitalize on diversity as an asset, our community must strive to create a culture and environment that ensures everyone can belong and thrive;

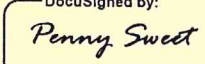
NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE MAYORS OF BELLEVUE, ISSAQUAH, KIRKLAND, REDMOND, AND SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON, jointly proclaim September 8-17, 2023 as

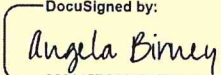
EASTSIDE WELCOMING WEEK

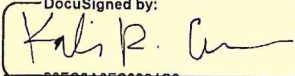
and invite the community to engage in opportunities during Eastside Welcoming Week and beyond to learn, connect across differences, and take joint action to achieve a welcoming, equitable, and inclusive community.

DocuSigned by:

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 Lynne Robinson, Mayor
 City of Bellevue

DocuSigned by:

 CEFF9F0626D7468...
 Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor
 City of Issaquah

DocuSigned by:

 F66FC1DB013C4FB...
 Penny Sweet, Mayor
 City of Kirkland

DocuSigned by:

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 Angela Birney, Mayor
 City of Redmond

DocuSigned by:

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 Kali Clark, Mayor
 City of Sammamish

