

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

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| AGENDA TITLE: | Proclamation Recognizing Welcoming Week in Shoreline | | |
| DEPARTMENT: | Recreation, Cultural and Community Services | | |
| PRESENTED BY: | Suni Tolton, Community Services | | |
| ACTION: | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance | <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proclamation |

ISSUE STATEMENT:

[Welcoming Week](#) is a national initiative of Welcoming America and a network of partners around the United States to make their communities more welcoming for all. Each year Welcoming Week takes place in September by organizations and communities providing opportunities for recent immigrants, refugees, and long-time residents to build stronger connections and affirm the importance of fostering welcoming and inclusive communities where all can thrive – regardless of immigration status, race, ethnicity, English language proficiency, religion, income, gender, sexual orientation, ability, age, or other factors.

Shoreline is home to an increasingly ethnically diverse community:

- 20% of Shoreline residents are foreign born,
- 30% of Shoreline residents are people of color,
- 26% of Shoreline residents speak a language other than English in the home, and
- 48% of Shoreline School District students are youth of color.

In our current societal challenges, many are divided politically, racial injustice and conflict are elevated, and the COVID-19 pandemic has caused future uncertainty. The spirit of Welcoming Week supports the City’s Resolution No. 401, declaring the City of Shoreline to be an inviting, equitable, and safe community for all and prohibiting inquiries by City employees regarding immigration status. The 2021 Welcoming Week theme of “Belonging Begins With Us” speaks to the City’s Resolution No. 467, that states the City is committed to building an anti-racist community.

This work is hard and ongoing but core to the vision of Shoreline as a thriving, friendly city where people of all ages, cultures, and economic backgrounds love to live, work, and play, and most of all call home.

RECOMMENDATION

The Mayor should read and present the proclamation.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Welcoming Week is a national initiative to promote connections between recent immigrants, refugees, and long-time neighbors to build stronger communities; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the Duwamish and other Puget Salish indigenous peoples were the original “welcomers” and upon whose lands we now call home; and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline population is home to people of increasingly diverse backgrounds, with 30% of residents identifying as people of color, and 20% of residents are foreign born; and

WHEREAS, new residents are vital to Shoreline in sharing different perspectives, establishing businesses, serving in civic roles, and working in critical industries; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreline recognizes we must work to undo historical and systemic racism, xenophobia, and other oppressions that contribute to inequity to create a welcoming city; and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline City Council is committed to ensuring that Shoreline is a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for all; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Will Hall, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, recognize September 10-19, 2021 as

WELCOMING WEEK

in the City of Shoreline and encourage residents to build communities where all feel a sense of belonging and can thrive.

Will Hall, Mayor