


**PROCLAMATION**


- WHEREAS,** the Eastside cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, and Sammamish have jointly celebrated Eastside Welcoming Week for the past four 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; 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,** recent events have highlighted the 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, LGBTQ, and other identities; and
- WHEREAS,** to capitalize on diversity as an asset, our community must strive to create a culture and policies that ensure everyone can belong and thrive by addressing disparities, countering hate, understanding history, and helping neighbors come together;

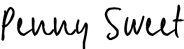
**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE MAYORS OF BELLEVUE, ISSAQUAH, KIRKLAND, REDMOND, AND SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON,** jointly proclaim September 18-27, 2020, as


**EASTSIDE WELCOMING WEEK**


and invite the community to engage in opportunities during Eastside Welcoming Week and beyond to learn; connect across differences; take joint action to achieve a welcoming, equitable, and inclusive community; and reaffirm their commitment to continue to examine and adopt programs, policies, and practices that improve our efforts towards achieving equity for all now and in the future.

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Lynne Robinson, Mayor 9/8/2020  
 City of Bellevue

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor 9/1/2020  
 City of Issaquah

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Penny Sweet, Mayor 9/7/2020  
 City of Kirkland

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Angela Birney, Mayor 9/1/2020  
 City of Redmond

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Karen Moran, Mayor 9/8/2020  
 City of Sammamish

