CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

ITEM: Approval of Proclamation
Welcoming Week
September 10-19, 2021

DATE: September 7, 2021

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

BACKGROUND:

Welcoming Week is September 10th through 19th and recognizes new Americans, immigrants and refugees. Through Welcoming Week, organizations and communities bring together immigrants, refugees, and long-time residents to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity.

The Greater Des Moines Partnership requested that the City of West Des Moines recognize Welcoming Week through a Mayoral proclamation.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of proclamation recognizing Welcoming Week, September 10-19, 2021.

Lead Staff Member: Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk RTJ

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk
Appropriations/Finance	
Legal	
Agenda Acceptance	RTJ

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee			
Date Reviewed			
Recommendation	Yes	No	Split

Proclamation

Welcoming Week

September 10-19, 2021

Whereas, Welcoming Week is Hosted by Welcoming America, National Welcoming Week is an annual series of events in which communities bring together immigrants and those born within their countries in a spirit of unity to build strong connections across their communities and affirm the benefits of welcoming everyone; and

Whereas, West Des Moines is home to people of all backgrounds, including those who were not born in the United States, but now call West Des Moines home. New residents are a vital part of our community, along with our long-time residents, bringing ideas, starting businesses, serving in civic roles, working in critical industries, and contributing to the vibrant diversity that we value; 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. That includes addressing disparities, countering hate, understanding history, and helping neighbors come together; and

Whereas, Regardless of where we are born or how we identify, we are West Des Moines residents, and our lives are interdependent. It is time to come together and build communities where every resident has the opportunity to thrive and contribute. By fostering a welcoming environment for all—regardless of immigration status, race, ethnicity, place of origin, English language proficiency, religion, income, gender, sexual orientation, differing abilities, age, and other factors—we enhance West Des Moines' health, economic prosperity, and well-being for current and future generations; and

Whereas, West Des Moines, along with several community partners, is joining Welcoming Week efforts led by the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven K. Gaer, Mayor of the City of West Des Moines, Iowa, do hereby proclaim September 10-19, 2021, as "Welcoming Week" in West Des Moines, and I encourage all residents to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture, and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, compassionate, and equitable for all.

Signed this 7th day of September, 2021.

ATTEST:

Steven K. Gaer, Mayor

Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk