

**PROCLAMATION**

- WHEREAS, Falls Church’s Vision 2040 envisions the City as a “welcoming and inclusive community;” and
- WHEREAS, immigrants are a vital part of our community, enriching our culture, bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas, starting businesses and fueling the economy, and contributing to the vibrant diversity that our City values; and
- WHEREAS, a welcoming environment can distinguish the City, weaving together our cultural fabric, helping us to overcome forces that would divide us, and enhancing relationships with our neighbors in and outside of the City; and
- WHEREAS, a welcoming environment for all individuals also enhances the City's and the area’s economic growth, global competitiveness, and overall prosperity for current and future generations; and
- WHEREAS, City residents have encouraged the City of Falls Church to engage with Welcoming America, a national movement inspiring people to build communities that embrace hospitality toward immigrants and refugees, to create opportunity for all, and create inclusive communities to help everyone who lives in America to feel like they belong; and
- WHEREAS, those residents have formed Welcoming Falls Church, a local initiative that calls for us to come together so immigrants, refugees, and long-time residents can build connections in a time of distancing and division; and
- WHEREAS, Welcoming Falls Church endeavors to engage all residents of City of Falls Church in various ways, including service opportunities with community partners, awareness and dialog through film screenings and other media, and policy and advocacy support to continue to build a more welcoming environment in the City; and
- WHEREAS, all of these considerations have become even more important under the public health, social, and economic pressures of the COVID-19 crisis, and especially in light of the expected influx of Afghan refugees throughout Northern Virginia and other parts of the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Tarter, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia do hereby designate the week of September 10-19, 2021, as

**WELCOMING WEEK**

in the City of Falls Church and proclaim the City’s support for Welcoming America by exploring ways to engage and collaborate with Welcoming Falls Church.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.



  
David Tarter, Mayor