

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Falls Church's Vision 2040 envisions the City as a "welcoming and inclusive community;" and
- WHEREAS, a uniquely 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, 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, 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
- 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 America provides resources to local governments in developing public policy models that help immigrants become full participants in their communities, including funding for research already pursued by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission that will be made available to the City and its residents, through initiatives sponsored by Welcoming Falls Church's Research and Policy Advocacy Committee; and
- WHEREAS, Welcoming America is leading a movement of inclusive communities to help make everyone who lives in America to feel like they belong; and
- WHEREAS, all of these considerations have become even more important under the public health, social, and economic pressures of the COVID-19 crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Tarter, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia do hereby designate the week of September 12-20, 2020, 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 10th day of September, 2020.




David Tarter, Mayor