

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Falls Church's Vision 2040 envisions the City as a "welcoming and inclusive community;" and
- WHEREAS, immigrants and refugees 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 culture can distinguish the City, uniting us at a time of division and enhancing relationships with our neighbors in and outside of the City; and
- WHEREAS, a welcoming environment 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; and
- WHEREAS, those residents have created Welcoming Falls Church, an organization dedicated to hospitality toward immigrants and refugees, to create opportunity for all; and
- WHEREAS, Welcoming Falls Church has partnered with the Falls Church City Public Schools and the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia to launch an Adult & Family Literacy Center that teaches English to adults and children in the evenings at Oak Street Elementary School; and
- WHEREAS, Welcoming Falls Church has championed a Renting to Refugees initiative, an innovative public-private partnership that addresses the shortage of affordable housing in the City which, with the support of the City Council, will welcome five refugee families to the City; and
- WHEREAS, Welcoming Falls Church endeavors to engage all residents of the City of Falls Church through additional initiatives, all designed to encourage a more welcoming environment in the City; and
- WHEREAS, all of these considerations have become even more important in the wake 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 9-18, 2022, 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 12th day of September, 2022.


David Tarter, Mayor

