



A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF WELCOMING WEEK

WHEREAS, Welcoming Week is an international annual celebration that affirms the fundamental dignity of immigrants and refugees, renews our commitment to build welcoming communities, and connects community members in a spirit of solidarity; and

WHEREAS, everyone has the right to live their lives peacefully and fearlessly, and we condemn the persecution of many others around the world who face extreme barriers and inequitable treatment on account of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration status, social status, gender, skin color, religion, political opinion; and

WHEREAS, all Tacoma residents, except the Puyallup and other Coast Salish Peoples, are immigrants; and as of 2020, more than 12 percent of Tacoma's population was born outside of the United States and nearly 18 percent speak a language other than English at home; and Metro Parks is committed to enthusiastically welcoming and resettling immigrants and refugees to Tacoma; and

WHEREAS, Ukrainian refugees were given a community center welcome tour this year through a partnership with Metro Parks and the Health Department to provide translated packets of information, free one-month community center passes, codes of conduct and financial applications. This initiative was also taken for Korean teachers and will be expanded for other non-English speaking community groups; and

WHEREAS, The City of Tacoma, along with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Metro Parks, are working together to expand language access tools to ensure all new community members receive the essential information they need; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks is piloting a language access service to provide real-time interpretation services to assist customer service and program staff in multiple languages to ensure all are supported in their preferred language and have every opportunity to become members or participants in our programs and events; and

WHEREAS, community members who migrated to this country are vital threads in the fabric of our City, whose participation and contributions are essential to creating a pluralistic and diverse society, and who help build a community that is economically, socially, and culturally stronger, and fosters immigrant and refugee leadership, authentic engagement; and

WHEREAS, all were invited September 10 to a Community Block Party at the Tacoma Community House, sponsored by the City of Tacoma and many others, to celebrate the positive impacts of our immigrant community and encourage everyone to learn more about and know our immigrant neighbors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners, hereby recognize and honor September 8-17 as Welcoming Week.

The foregoing proclamation was presented at the regularly scheduled Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma Park Board meeting held on September 11, 2023.

ATTEST:

Board President *Andrea Smith*

Board Clerk *[Signature]*

Proclamation

