Sample Welcoming Week *Proclamation*

Welcoming Week 2020 by [THE GOVERNOR/MAYOR/COUNTY EXECUTIVE]: A Proclamation

This week, we celebrate Welcoming Week as a way of creating home together with communities around the world. Welcoming Week is about bringing neighbors together across lines of difference to build relationships and work together on shared goals. During Welcoming Week, I invite all [RESIDENTS e.g. Atlantans] to join this movement by taking action in the spirit of unity across differences.

[LOCALITY/STATE] is home to people of all backgrounds, including those who were not born in here, but now call it home. [LOCALITY/STATE]'s success depends on making sure that all [RESIDENTS] feel welcome. 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.

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. Our community has faced [and upheld] structures, systems, and policies that discriminate against residents who were born in another country, are Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ, and other identities.

Disparities in life outcomes exist along these lines and others in [LOCALITY/STATE]. While those most directly impacted are residents who are discriminated against [/whose life outcomes are, on average, more adverse/with these identities], all of our residents are adversely affected. Anti-Blackness, racism, xenophobia, and all forms of othering threaten our collective well-being, health, and prosperity.

Regardless of where we are born or how we identify, we are [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 [LOCALITY/STATE]'s health, economic prosperity, and well-being for current and future generations.

Now, therefore, I, [NAME], [TITLE], proclaim the week of September 12, 2020 Welcoming Week and call on our residents to reach across lines of difference and participate in one or more of the Welcoming Week events across [LOCALITY/STATE]. I also call on business leaders, civic groups, government agencies, and community institutions to undertake their own initiatives, alongside [LOCALITY/STATE]'s, beyond Welcoming Week to make the region a more welcoming place for new and long-term residents alike.

Sample *Resolution* Language to Support Participation in the Welcoming Network
Adaptations to the above proclamation language may be made to resolve instances in which your local government will formally join the Welcoming Network during Welcoming Week. To join the Welcoming Network, local governments must also complete the application process on www.welcomingnetwork.org. Sample language follows:

WHEREAS, [LOCALITY] wishes to unite with a network of local governments and nonprofits around the nation and world that have pledged to become more welcoming places by joining the Welcoming Network; and

WHEREAS, this [GOVERNMENT BODY] finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of [LOCALITY] to support the [LOCALITY]'s participation in the Welcoming Network and authorize [REPRESENTATIVE] to execute all necessary documents to participate in said program operated by the nonprofit Welcoming America;

Now THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the [GOVERNMENT BODY] on [DATE], 2020 that:

The [GOVERNMENT BODY] announces its support of [LOCALITY]'s participation in the Welcoming Network, and authorizes the [REPRESENTATIVE] to execute all necessary documents to participate in said program.