

# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

# Proclamation

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## WELCOMING WEEK

**WHEREAS**, the United States has more immigrants than any other country in the world. Today, more than 40 million people living in the U.S. were born in another country, accounting for about one-fifth of the world's migrants, and through Welcoming Week communities bring together neighbors of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity; and

**WHEREAS** public libraries in the United States have a long history of providing resources and education to immigrants. The library is the gateway for introducing immigrants and refugees to their new communities and the County of which they are now members. The public library builds the global village; and

**WHEREAS** September is Library Card Sign-Up Month and Arlington County Public Library continues to provide English language classes, foreign language classes, citizenship clinics, cultural programs and story times, voter registration drives, and ensures programs, services and collections are accessible to new Americans; and

**WHEREAS** the ALA Library Bill of Rights states that the person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views. That ALA strongly supports the protection of each person's civil liberties, regardless of that individual's nationality, residency, or status; and

**WHEREAS** we reaffirm Arlington's commitment to strengthening trust with our immigrant community. Truly welcoming places are grounded in the welcoming values and practices of government leadership, equitable access, civic engagement, connected communities, education, economic development, and safe communities; and

**WHEREAS** Arlington County recognizes that the County's ethnic, racial, and linguistic diversity is a key source of our strength and social fabric, and our vision to be a welcoming and inclusive community where every person is valued and can thrive fits our theme for Welcoming Week 2022 which is "Where We Belong";

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Cristol**, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **September 9-18** as

## WELCOMING WEEK

in Arlington County and encourage all residents to join together in building a stronger community and reaffirming that Virginia remains a beacon of freedom and opportunity.



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Katie Cristol  
Chair