

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WELCOME WEEK
FOR THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG**

WHEREAS, it is City Council's desire that all Harrisonburg residents feel safe, included and welcome; and

WHEREAS, foreign-born residents of Harrisonburg are an important and vital part of our community offering unique perspectives, creating growth through business startups, and contributing to a vibrant and growing fusion of cultures in our community; and

WHEREAS, we honor the spirit of unity that is bringing neighbors together across the City of Harrisonburg and believe that by working together, as one community, we can achieve greater prosperity and growth, while also making our community the kind of place where people from all across the state, country and globe would feel valued and be encouraged to put down their roots; and

WHEREAS, regardless of where we are born, what we look like or what culture we come from, we are all Harrisonburg residents, and we stand united in our efforts to build a stronger community for all people; and

WHEREAS, Welcoming Week also seeks to draw in those residents who have previously felt unwelcome or excluded, in order to foster unity and strengthen community; and

WHEREAS, Welcoming Week is an annual celebration, sponsored by Welcoming America, whereby member communities like Harrisonburg endeavor to bring together people and local events that celebrate the contributions of immigrants and refugees and the role communities play in helping them adjust to their new lives in America; and

WHEREAS, Welcoming Week is now expanding to other parts of the world and will be observed this year Sept. 15-24, 2017; and

WHEREAS, during this week of welcoming, we should take time to celebrate the successes of our diverse community, and welcome all of those who wish to be a part of the community with open arms, in order to build a more diverse and stronger community, that our residents can be proud of.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HARRISONBURG CITY COUNCIL, that council hereby formally acknowledges and celebrates Welcoming Week from September 15 to September 24, 2017.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2017.

BY: _____

Deanna R. Reed, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Pamela S. Ulmer, Deputy City Clerk