

PROCLAMATION
Welcoming Week

WHEREAS, Welcoming Week is a national initiative that highlights the efforts of local communities working to foster greater understanding, connection, and civic engagement among all residents, longtime residents and newcomers alike, in celebration of the diverse experiences that enrich our shared community; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Census data reflects that 15.4% of Durham County's population is foreign-born, compared to 13.8% nationally. This highlights the vibrant and diverse community that calls Durham home and reminds us of the value of inclusive community efforts; and

WHEREAS, Durham County is committed to being a community where all residents, no matter their background or journey, feel a sense of belonging and are encouraged to participate fully in public life; and

WHEREAS, by supporting New Americans in building connections and opportunities, and in fully participating in community life, Durham County seeks to strengthen trust and promote shared values. These efforts help build a more cohesive and resilient community rooted in a shared sense of belonging; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Lee, Chair of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 10 through September 19, 2026, as "Welcoming Week" in Durham County. I encourage all residents to take part in activities celebrating connection and community spirit, activities that promote mutual respect, civic participation, and the shared goal of making Durham a place where every member of our community, including New Americans, has the opportunity to thrive and contribute. We continue to nurture a community where everyone feels at home.