

Resolution in Support of Welcoming Week

WHEREAS: Coming together to find common ground with our neighbors, seek similarities within our different cultures and perspectives, and deepen our commitments to each other builds a stronger and more resilient city; and

WHEREAS: Sharing ideas, food, music, art, and conversation, expands our experiences and exposes us to new approaches and solutions; and

WHEREAS: Welcoming is a core part of who we are in the City of Somerville and who we have been for decades, and Somerville will continue to choose connection, courage, and love over division, fear, and hate; and

WHEREAS: The City of Somerville prioritizes a spirit of welcoming year-round, and uses this week as an opportunity to pause, reflect, and plan for the next phase of welcoming work in our city; and

WHEREAS: The City of Somerville affirmed its commitment to welcoming through a series of resolutions starting with our Sanctuary City Resolution in 1987, our Equal Opportunity Resolution in 1993, our Executive Policy for Responding to ICE Detainers and our Trust Act Ordinance in 2014, Our Somerville Welcoming Community Ordinance in 2019, and our Reaffirmation of our Welcoming Community Ordinance in 2024; and

WHEREAS: The Somerville School Committee affirmed its commitment to welcoming through a series of resolutions including the Resolution in Support of People with Disabilities in Somerville Public Schools, the Resolution in Support of Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Staff, and Families, the Resolution in Support of Immigrant Students and Caregivers/Families in Somerville Public Schools in 2025 and the Resolution in Support All LGBTQ+ Students in Somerville in 2022.

WHEREAS: Our neighbors have chosen to stand in solidarity with one another, those new to Somerville and those who have for long called Somerville home, and will continue to uphold the values of belonging, diversity, and inclusion.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville School Committee do hereby celebrate the week of September 12, 2025 as Welcoming Week, calling upon the people of Somerville join together to build stronger communities across our city.

Voted: Unanimously

Date: September 8, 2025

By: Somerville School Committee