TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Amanda Brown, Mayor's Office
NUMBER: RES-71-17
DATE: January 31, 2017
SUBJECT: Welcoming City

BACKGROUND:
A resolution finding that the City of Boise is committed to being a welcoming city and creating a community where all of our residents feel welcomed, safe, and able to fully participate in, and contribute to, our city's economic and social life.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
None
A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE CITY OF BOISE IS COMMITTED TO BEING A WELCOMING CITY AND CREATING A COMMUNITY WHERE ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS FEEL WELCOMED, SAFE, AND ABLE TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN, AND CONTRIBUTE TO, OUR CITY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE.

WHEREAS, the City of Boise was built by pioneering immigrants, and our history is one of welcoming those seeking freedom from persecution and the opportunity for a better life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boise has remained true to our heritage, and since the 1970s has welcomed refugees seeking new homes, safety, freedom, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, foreign-born Boise residents are a vital part of our community, bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas, starting businesses, and contributing to the vibrant diverse community that we all value; and

WHEREAS, the Boise Police Department has worked tirelessly to develop a Community Policing program to build solid relationships between immigrant communities and law enforcement, that are a foundation for a safer and stronger community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boise and the Idaho Office for Refugees convened a roundtable of community partners and resettlement agencies with the goal of understanding the resettlement process; determining how refugees and resettlement agencies define successful resettlement; and exploring opportunities to increase the services that are essential to success; and

WHEREAS, this effort led to the creation of Neighbors United and a nationally-recognized community wide refugee integration plan that involves nonprofits, businesses, faith leaders, governments, and refugee leadership; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boise has affirmed our commitment to welcoming all individuals through past statements and actions, knowing that discrimination impedes the social and economic progress of a city by preventing all of our residents from fully contributing to the cultural, spiritual, social, and commercial life of our community; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of all individuals in the City of Boise are essential to the City’s growth, vitality, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boise is committed to creating the most livable city in the
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The City of Boise is committed to being a Welcoming City and creating a community where all of our residents feel welcomed, safe, and able to fully participate in, and contribute to, our city’s economic and social life. We urge all residents of Boise to do their part in reaching out and welcoming all those who live in and visit our great City.


APPROVED by the Mayor of the Boise City, Idaho, on January 31, 2017.

APPROVED:       ATTEST:

David H. Bieter, Mayor

Lynda Lowry, Ex-Officio City Clerk