



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ridgefield is observing Multiculturalism Month to celebrate the contributions and influences of cultural diversity in our community, promote mutual understanding between different cultures, and recognize the history that brought us here, and

WHEREAS, Ridgefield's cultural history is interwoven with the Chinook and Cowlitz tribes, the original inhabitants of the area who cared for the land for thousands of years prior to the introduction of white settlers, and

WHEREAS, While Ridgefield's population is now predominantly white, it is more diverse than many U.S. cities and the cultural diversity is increasing each year, and

WHEREAS, The increase in diversity can challenge stereotypes and highlight shared values, bridge cultural gaps, promote cultural tourism and enrich the community with new languages, lifestyles, foods, activities, languages, music, art, and games, and

WHEREAS, In 2021, Ridgefield City Council adopted an equity statement committing to preserve the City's historical and cultural heritage; retain a strong sense of community; create an environment where all cultures are respected and valued; and provide equitable access to city programs, services and employment, and

WHEREAS, Ridgefield Multicultural Initiative (RMI) is a local nonprofit with a mission to "celebrate culture, educate, and create intentional space for belonging in our community by organizing events and an annual festival." The City partners with RMI to host the annual Multicultural Festival on the First Saturday in September.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATT COLE, Mayor of the City of Ridgefield, do hereby proclaim September 2025 as

"MULTICULTURALISM MONTH"

and encourage interaction and understanding between different cultural groups through learning, discovery and dialogue.

Dated this 28th day of August 2025

CITY OF RIDGEFIELD

Matt Cole, Mayor