

# Whereas

*Whereas,* Slavic and Eastern European-Americans are one of Portland's largest immigrant and refugee communities, with over 150,000 people in the greater Portland area; and

*Whereas,* Slavic and Eastern European Portlanders can trace their ancestry to 15 countries in the former Soviet Union and 14 other European countries, with unique languages, dialects, cultures, and histories; and

*Whereas,* the City of Portland has many Slavic and Eastern European employees, and a Slavic Empowerment Team that works to build a more inclusive and diverse workforce; and

*Whereas,* the Slavic Empowerment Team shares culture, language and art with City employees through celebrations, displays, performances; and

*Whereas,* Portland is a welcoming, inclusive, and sanctuary city that celebrates its growing diversity; and

*Whereas,* the City of Portland is proud of its relationship with all members of the Slavic and Eastern European community, and will continue supporting their professional and economic advancement;

*Now, therefore,* I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim the second week of January 2020 to be

*Slavic and Eastern European Heritage Week*

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this week.

