



NEWS RELEASE

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Vienna's First Naturalization Ceremony Scheduled for Town Green

For more than 220 years, people from all over the world have made the bold decision to take the Oath of Allegiance to become naturalized United States citizens. **On Saturday, July 2, 2022**, 15 people from Canada to Congo will **take that oath at 5 p.m. on the Vienna Town Green** during a special Liberty Amendments Month naturalization ceremony, after which they will have full voting rights and liberties granted to native-born Americans.

"The decision to renounce allegiance to one's country of birth to become a United States citizen must be very emotional," said Vienna Parks and Recreation event coordinator Lily Widman. "Our homeland is such a big part of our identity, yet, for hundreds of years people from other countries who admire our way of life in the United States have taken the necessary steps to go through the process, which is not easy, and their journey is truly inspiring."

The Vienna naturalization ceremony is part of a Liberty Amendments Month mini-fest celebrating the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Jordyn Jones of Vienna Youth Players will sing the National Anthem, and Girl Scout Troops 50157 and 1489 will present the colors. Mayor Linda Colbert will also be on hand to welcome the honorees and representatives from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services who will administer the oath, and the **Director of U.S. National Intelligence, Avril Haines, will deliver the keynote address.**

"I'm so glad we were able to coordinate this event and time it for Liberty Amendments Month," Widman said. "Through this ceremony, we get to be a witness to history as people take the same Oath of Allegiance that has been administered for generations. It also gives us a chance to reflect on what makes our country so special."

This will be the first naturalization ceremony held as part of Vienna's Liberty Amendments Month Celebration. The annual, month-long series of events from Juneteenth to July 19 was started in 2021 as an opportunity to bring the community together to celebrate our common bonds.

The Vienna Town Green is located at 144 Maple Ave. E, Vienna Va. For more information and the full 2022 Liberty Amendments Month events calendar, visit www.viennava.gov/liberty.

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