

Proclamation

Whereas, National Disability Employment Awareness Month was established in 1945 to celebrate the contributions of individuals with disabilities to our workforce and to society, and to educate the public about the value of a diverse workforce; and

Whereas, in 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed a joint resolution of Congress, proclaiming October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day" to recognize the white cane every blind citizen has the right to carry, and which demonstrates and symbolizes the ability to lead a full and independent life; and

Whereas, on July 26, 1990, President George W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities and establish a national mandate to eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, Disability Awareness Month affirms the progress the City of Alameda has made in improving employment opportunities, government services, public accommodations and transportation, while recognizing there is still work to be done to remove all barriers, physical and social, that unreasonably prevent the full participation of people with disabilities, and to acknowledge and utilize the employment skills of those who are differently-abled; and

Whereas, in 1974, the City Council established a committee to provide a public forum to address local disability issues. Today, the Commission on Disability advises the City Council, City Departments, and other Boards and Commissions on issues affecting people with disabilities and actions the City can take to achieve an environment in which people with disabilities have equal access to programs, housing, facilities and services; and to foster attitudes and promote behaviors that respect and value people with disabilities throughout our community; and

Whereas, disability is a natural part of the human experience, and individuals who are "differently-abled" have a right to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, and participate in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby proclaim

October 15, 2019, as **White Cane Safety Day**

and October 2019 as **Disability Awareness Month**

in the City of Alameda and encourage all residents to join me in recognizing the lasting contributions that differently-abled individuals continue to make.



Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor

