

Proclamation

Whereas, 2020 marks a commemorative year – the 75th observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), established in 1945, and the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), established in 1990; and

Whereas, the purpose of NDEAM is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities, and the ADA is landmark legislation that ensures the civil rights of people with disabilities and establishes a national mandate to eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, the history of NDEAM traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week," then in 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month; 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

Whereas, in 1974, the Alameda City Council established a committee to provide a public forum to address local disability issues. Today, the Commission on Persons with Disabilities 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, workplaces welcoming the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of Alameda's efforts to build an inclusive community that increases access and opportunities to all, including individuals with disabilities.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as

Disability Awareness Month

in the City of Alameda and encourage all residents to celebrate 2020's milestones and to advance the important message that people with disabilities add value and talent to our workplaces and communities.



Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor

