



PROCLAMATION



RECOGNIZING AND COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

WHEREAS, July 26, 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); and

WHEREAS, prior to the enactment of the ADA, people with disabilities were often segregated and denied equality of opportunity based on fear, ignorance, prejudice, stereotypes, labels, and pernicious mythologies; and

WHEREAS, the ADA rejects these precepts and instead embraces the precept that disability is a natural and normal part of the human experience that in no way diminishes a person's right to fully participate in all aspects of society; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has been referred to as the "20th century Emancipation Proclamation" for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the ADA include equality of opportunity, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living; and

WHEREAS, the ADA was enacted because of the concerted, dedicated, and persistent efforts of persons with sensory, physical, and mental disabilities, professionals, and disability-related organizations; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments and businesses recognized the public interest in extending civil rights protections to all people, including people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, members of Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to craft civil rights legislation that balanced the rights of people with disabilities with the legitimate concerns of covered entities; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has played a historic role in enabling people with disabilities to fully participate in all aspects of society by removing barriers to employment, public services, public accommodations, public and private transportation, telework, telecommunications, websites, online systems, mobile apps, and other forms of information and communication technology; and

WHEREAS, every person in the United States, not just people with disabilities, benefit from covered entities adopting principles of universal design with respect to buildings, modes of transportation, websites, and other technologies procured and used by covered entities; and

WHEREAS, thirty years after the enactment of the ADA, the law remains a crucial tool in addressing persistent discrimination, including failure to: ensure competitive, integrated employment as the presumed, priority, and default placement by state and local agencies; provide meaningful opportunities to community-based services and supports; and eliminate new barriers to equal opportunity, such as inaccessible websites, online systems, mobile apps, and other forms of information and communication technology, algorithm bias in artificial intelligence, lack of access to the gig economy, and in responses to pandemics and other national emergencies; and ineffective or inadequate responses to pandemics and other state- or national-level emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a responsibility to welcome back and create effective and meaningful opportunities for tens of thousands of working-age veterans who have been wounded in action or have experienced injuries or illnesses related to their service; and

WHEREAS, the ADA serves as a model for civil rights protections for people with disabilities in other countries.

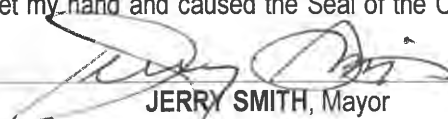
THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the City of DeKalb recognizes and commemorates the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of DeKalb encourages agencies, businesses, and all members of the public to celebrate the advancement of the American Dream for All made possible by the enactment of the ADA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of DeKalb pledges to continue to implement the ADA and work on a bipartisan basis to pursue the goals of the ADA – equality of opportunity, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living for people with disabilities.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of DeKalb to be affixed this 27th day of July 2020.




JERRY SMITH, Mayor