

PROCLAMATION
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AWARENESS DAY
Annually on the 26th of July

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, establishing a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by reducing barriers, changing perceptions, and increasing opportunities for full participation and inclusion in community life; and

WHEREAS, continued commitment to the principles of the ADA is necessary to help individuals with disabilities reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, the ADA does not stipulate that a disability has to be visible for a person to receive protection from discrimination.

WHEREAS, numerous organizations in Oak Park and Illinois work with constituents and communities to bring forth the promise of hope and freedom that is envisioned by the passage of the ADA.

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2023, our village, state and nation will commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, recognizing and celebrating the progress that has been made; and

WHEREAS, July is Disability Pride month, that celebrates people with disabilities and disability as an identity, honoring the community and culture. The initiative aims to directly challenge systemic ableism and discrimination faced by those with a disability, centering disabled experiences. Disability Pride means different things to different people: to honor early activists, recognition that their disability is intrinsic to their self, celebrating disability visibility in public spaces, and more. Learn more from disabled people and self-advocates on social media by searching #DisabilityPride and #DisabilityPrideMonth. With the Oak Park Library leading the way in educating the community on how to address accessibility and combat ableism.

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park encourages people to reaffirm the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion laid out in the ADA and recommit our efforts to reach full ADA compliance so that every person in our village has the opportunity to succeed.

WHEREAS, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Oak Park supports the recognition of Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day both financially and in spirit fully.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the Village of Oak Park shall recognize July 26th, 2023 and each year thereafter on the 26th of July as ***AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AWARENESS DAY*** and

hereby reaffirm our commitment to work towards full ADA compliance in the Village of Oak Park.

ADOPTED and **APPROVED** this 31st day of July, 2023.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk