

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month is an annual event celebrated in July to commemorate the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It recognizes and honors the history, achievements, experiences, and struggles of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month promotes visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by people with disabilities, celebrating diversity and fostering a society that is inclusive and accessible to all individuals, regardless of ability; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month enables people with disabilities to redefine their identity with pride; serves as a tool to tackle ableism, bias, and discrimination; and reshapes false negative perceptions of individuals with disabilities as people with value, talents, and significance; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month celebrates people with disabilities and disability as an identity, honoring the community and culture. The initiative aims to challenge directly 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, to recognize that their disability is intrinsic to their self, to celebrate disability visibility in public spaces, and to encourage accessibility as a cornerstone of equity and inclusion. The Oak Park Public Library is leading the way in educating the community on how to address accessibility and how to combat ableism and how more can be learned from disabled people and self-advocates by searching #DisabilityPride and #DisabilityPrideMonth on social media; and

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. It is essential to promote a society that embraces disability as an integral and valued part of human diversity, where all individuals are treated with dignity, respect, and equality, and where barriers to participation and inclusion are eliminated; and appreciate the efforts of disability rights activists, organizations, and advocates who work tirelessly to advance the rights, independence, and well-being of individuals with disabilities, and to create a more inclusive and accessible world for all; and

WHEREAS, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Oak Park supports the recognition of ADA 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 ***AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AWARENESS DAY*** annually on July 26th and hereby reaffirm our commitment to work towards full ADA compliance in the Village of Oak Park.

DATED this 23rd day of July, 2024.

Vicki Scaman

Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters

Village Clerk