

PROCLAMATION

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

March 2026

WHEREAS, Public Law 99–483, enacted by the United States Congress in 1987, designated the month of March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, more than an estimated 12% of the Illinois population has an intellectual or other developmental disability; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all to recognize and acknowledge that it is not disability, but societal barriers and attitudes that can keep individuals from realizing their full potential at school, work, home, and in their chosen communities; and

WHEREAS, we can contribute to improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities by becoming advocates and supporters of increased independence, capacity, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, to fulfill the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Executive Order No. 92, Employment First for those with Disabilities, we reaffirm our commitment to full community participation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by expanding opportunities and equal access to fair wages, fully integrated competitive employment, education, housing, health care and civic engagement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2026 as **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH** in the Village of Oak Park and encourage all citizens of Oak Park to work to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

DATED, this 18th day of March 2026.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk