

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 295534

ADOPTED ON OCT 02 2001

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1990, U.S. President George W. Bush signed into law the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability; and

WHEREAS, this act continues to open a path of opportunity for the estimated 54 million Americans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, prior to the ADA, Public Law 176 was enacted by Congress in 1945 to designate the first week in October in each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week"; and

WHEREAS, in 1962 the word "physically" was removed from the week's name to acknowledge the employment needs of all Americans with disabilities, and in 1988 Congress expanded the week to a month and changed its name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month"; and

WHEREAS, since that time October has evolved into a kick-off month for year-round programs that highlight the abilities and skills of Americans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's educational program is "Winning with Ability - Homes to Work," with special emphasis on the employability of disabled Americans at a time when public and private employers are in need of skilled and talented workers to ensure a competent and creative workforce; and

WHEREAS, employees with disabilities have demonstrated their abilities in executive, administrative and managerial fields, and have been successful in such diversified areas as marketing, sales, administrative support, service industries, construction trades, manufacturing, transportation and professional and technical fields; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of October government agencies and businesses are being asked to join with the City of San Diego by sponsoring educational programs and disability awareness within their own organizations; and

WHEREAS, this is an opportunity to increase employees' comfort levels as they provide services and products to the estimated 20 percent of San Diegans who have disabilities and to identify new employee pools of untapped talent; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego has broadened the scope of this awareness campaign by including in this celebration San Diego businesses, parks, beaches, sports, arts and all other services, products and places enjoyed by San Diegans, and throughout the month of October, the City will be offering a series of two-hour awareness programs to all managers and city employees, as well as to San Diego businesses and the community; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council does hereby commend the City's Community Services Department for their commitment to help make all San Diegans aware of disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that October 2001, is hereby proclaimed to be "**SAN DIEGO DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH**" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett

Stuart H. Swett
Senior Deputy City Attorney

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