

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 297150

ADOPTED ON OCT 07 2002

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1990, U.S. President George Bush signed into law the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability which opened 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 "First Hand!... Understand!" with special emphasis on experiencing and learning about all types of disabilities and about the employability of persons with disabilities at a time when the value of human potential and life itself is foremost in our nation's eyes; 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

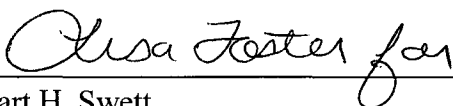
WHEREAS, this is an opportunity to increase employees' comfort levels as they provide services and products to the estimated 20 percent of San Diegans who have disabilities and to

identify new employee pools of untapped talent; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego has broadened the scope of this awareness campaign by including 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 is offering a series of 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 for and on behalf of the people of the San Diego does hereby recognize the City's Community and Economic Development Department for their commitment to help make all San Diegans aware of the rights and needs of citizens with all types of disabilities and does hereby proclaim, October 2002 to be "SAN DIEGO DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By   
Stuart H. Swett  
Senior Deputy City Attorney

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