

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 297191

ADOPTED ON OCT 14 2002

WHEREAS, National White Cane Safety Day, observed annually on October 15, is a day of special significance for blind and visually impaired Americans because it represents a declaration of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the white cane presents freedom to generations of blind Americans by enabling them to move through their communities with greater ease, confidence, and safety; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, former President of the National Federation of the Blind, was an early advocate of the white cane and the full integration of blind people into every aspect of society; and

WHEREAS, he believed in the power of the white cane as a means to allow blind people to leave the confines of their homes for the outside world, and with proper training, people using the white cane can enjoy greater mobility and safety by determining the location of curbs, steps, uneven pavement, and other physical obstacles in their path; and

WHEREAS, due to enormous advances in technology, people who are blind or visually impaired now have additional tools – such as voice recognition software, computer screen readers, and Braille translators – to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities on the job;

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 San Diego, hereby commends the many achievements of blind and visually impaired citizens and recognizes the white cane's significance in society today.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that October 15, 2002 be and is hereby proclaimed to be
"NATIONAL WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett
Stuart H. Swett
Senior Deputy City Deputy

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