



# City of Winston-Salem

## Proclamation

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**WHEREAS:**

A Developmental Disability is a diverse group of chronic conditions that are due to mental or physical impairments that arise before adulthood; and

**WHEREAS:**

The condition is likely to continue indefinitely and limits the individual in three or more of the following areas: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and

**WHEREAS:**

The condition creates the individual's need for a combination of special, interdisciplinary services, individualized/person-centered supports, and other forms of long-term assistance that are individually planned and coordinated; and

**WHEREAS:**

The disability experience is a natural part of life and is valued as a part of our rich diversity; and

**WHEREAS:**

Disability is a social construct. The 'problem' is not the medical condition that resides within the individual, but the 'problem' is that society does not create welcoming, supporting, and inclusive environments, policies, and/or systems for all, to promote equality and acceptance in all areas of life, including schools, places of employment, and in our communities; and

**WHEREAS:**

The most effective way to increase awareness is through everyone's openness to learn and acknowledge that there are systemic barriers that reduce the likelihood of those with disabilities enjoying equitable experiences and living independent, productive lives within their communities; and

**WHEREAS:**

Policies must be developed, attitudes shaped, and equitable experiences are offered to all individuals, including those with developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS:**

Citizens should do all in their power to:

- Recognize the value of the disability experience in our lives and the valued role it has in our rich diversity.
- Recognize the barriers presented to those with disabilities across all aspects of their lives.
- Create ways to include everyone; especially those with developmental disabilities, to be fully included in all aspects of life.
- Understand the losses (financial, spiritual, human rights, contributions to community, and otherwise) when our communities segregate and create barriers for those with disabilities.
- Demand policymakers no longer invest in segregation and create inclusive, equitable policies and systems for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. ALLEN JOINES, Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as**

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Given under my hand and seal this 6th day of March, 2023.

J. ALLEN JOINES

  
Mayor

