



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT'S (ADA) DAY ON JULY 17, 2024

- WHEREAS:** This year, July 17 marks Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Day in the City of Boston. The American with Disabilities Act is a federal act that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. It is a civil rights law that ensures all people with disabilities are entitled to the same rights, opportunities, and services as every other American. The ADA serves as a powerful instrument in promoting a society where people with disabilities can fully participate and thrive, without facing unjust barriers or prejudice; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Signed into law on July 26th, 1990, this July marks the 33rd anniversary of the passage of ADA; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Through its extensive network of regional centers, the ADA National Network works to ensure awareness and compliance with ADA regulations in order to promote equality of opportunity, full participation, and self-sufficient living for individuals with disabilities; *and*
- WHEREAS:** According to a 2021 US Census Bureau report, 8.3% of Boston residents under 65 live with disabilities. This includes difficulties in self-care, hearing, vision, independent living, cognition, and walking; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston's Disabilities Commission works to reduce barriers for individuals with disabilities so that they can have full and equal participation in all aspects of life. In 2022, the Disabilities Commission improved City Hall Plaza's ADA compliance by adding accessibility features. Citywide, they increased accessibility for those with limited hearing through expanding closed captioning on public screens; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In 2016, the City Council and Mayor Walsh created the Language and Communications Access (LCA) program to provide translation and interpretation services for non-English speaking residents and those with communication-related disabilities in all City departments. The LCA office ensures accessibility for constituents and upholds Boston's citywide Language and Communication Access Ordinance; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston has greatly improved and continues to work in improving access for people with disabilities by requiring facilities and public ways to be ADA compliant.
- WHEREAS:** We also want to recognize the tremendous work of organizations dedicated to the engagement of persons with disabilities, such as the Challenger Baseball League for children with special needs, which was sponsored by Sean O'Brien and Local 25 of the Teamsters Union, with former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn and Joe "Okie" O'Connor acting as coaches; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the Boston City Council affirms its support for individuals with disabilities and raises awareness of the ADA by joining in and celebrating the 33rd anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act.