

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation Supporting the Implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act

WHEREAS, the Orange County Human Relations Commission seeks to prevent and eliminate bias and discrimination, and to promote the equal treatment of all individuals, including persons with physical, mental and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, for generations, persons with disabilities were wrongfully denied the ability to participate in our society, contribute to our economy, or support their families based on their disability status and therefore were forced to live as second-class citizens being denied those most basic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, persons with disabilities who were not content to accept the world as it was, marched, organized and testified, coupling quiet acts of persistence and perseverance with vocal acts of advocacy, demanded a nation that would declare equality for its citizens with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, advocates joined in the efforts to remove barriers that were depriving the nation of the full talents, contributions and differing abilities of tens of millions of Americans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which includes a clear and comprehensive mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities and the civil and equal rights of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by removing and reducing barriers, changing perceptions, and increasing full participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2015, this nation will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the ADA, and we recognize that the full promise of the ADA will be reached only if we remain committed to continue our efforts to fully implement the ADA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this the 25th anniversary year of the ADA, that the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, North Carolina, celebrates the contributions that Americans with disabilities and those who are differently-abled have made to our Nation and to our County, and commits this County and all Departments therein to reach compliance with the ADA through the adherence to the spirit of the law, by the removal or reduction of physical barriers preventing full participation in community life, and by the empowering of persons with disabilities through the provision of equitable treatment, inclusion and opportunities.

THIS THE 2nd DAY OF JUNE, 2015



Earl McKee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners