

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Global Accessibility Awareness Day was established 12 years ago to begin conversation and learning about digital access and inclusion and the more than one billion people in the world with disabilities and impairments; and

WHEREAS, The City of Olympia recognizes that disability challenges affect 20 percent of the world's population and that people with disabilities must be able to experience the world, community events, web-based services, content and other digital products with the same successful outcome as those without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, according to the Annual Disability Statistics Compendium, approximately 13 percent of people living in Thurston County have one or more disabilities affecting their vision, hearing, cognition, movement, self-care, or independent living. Recent research done by Experience Olympia & Beyond found that 20 percent of Thurston County visitors have a disability; and

WHEREAS, Technology allows community members to connect to vital government services through websites, software, mobile devices, and other digital sources, and residents increasingly depend on digital technology to access employment, education, entertainment, commerce, healthcare and other services.; and

WHEREAS, accessible technology benefits everyone with digital material that is easier to read, applications that are easy to navigate, search results that are more robust and content that reaches a wider audience; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia sees State and Federal legal requirements for digital and technological accessibility, and accessibility of public places and strives to meet or exceed those standards.

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is committed to ensuring equal access, increasing accessibility standards within the City of Olympia's daily operations, affirming the rights of persons with disabilities to be contributing members of our community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Olympia City Council, does hereby proclaim May 18, 2023 as

GLOBAL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS DAY

The City of Olympia encourages residents to become aware of the many ways in which they can impact the accessibility of our community, including both our physical spaces and digital content, and contribute to the health, happiness, and independence of family, friends, neighbors and one another.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS SIXTEENTH DAY OF MAY 2023.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

Cheryl Selby, Mayor