

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington recognizes the values, contributions, potential, and rights of all individuals who live, work, and play in our City; and

WHEREAS, today, we are gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, when we acknowledged as a nation people with disabilities have a right to the same opportunities and access to a dignified quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington aspires to ensure equal opportunity for all by identifying and removing the physical, programmatic, cultural, and attitudinal barriers faced by people with disabilities and by working to encourage and accommodate their full participation; and

WHEREAS, the revitalization of the Burlington Advisory Committee on Accessibility highlights the City's continued commitment to advancing equity among its residents, visitors, employees, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the heart of the vibrant Church Street Marketplace has opened through increased access to shops and restaurants, such as the Church Street Tavern, Red Square, Halvorson's Upstreet Cafe, Leunig's Bistro, the Scuffer Steak & Ale House, Ken's Pizza and Pub, and Henry's Diner; and

WHEREAS, the City, the Northeast Disabled Athletic Association, and other community partners have helped to increase the amount of recreational opportunities for people with disabilities, including a wheelchair accessible treehouse at Oakledge Park, the adaptive sailing programs on Lake Champlain, the ADA accessible mats, water chairs, and ramp at North Beach, and other accessibility improvements made to parks, beachfront areas, playground equipment, and other City infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, great strides have been made to ensure family and visitors in Burlington have the amenities, infrastructure, and support they need to fully participate in City-sponsored events and festivals; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington School District is working to realize the fundamental promise of access to equal education with their own investments in facilities and access to opportunities for students and parents with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City is grateful for the work of the Burlington Advisory Committee on Accessibility for its strong advocacy on policies, programs, and services that meet the needs of people with disabilities in our City; and

WHEREAS, the City is grateful for the work of the Vermont Center for Independent Living for its statewide efforts to assure that people with disabilities in Vermont can "access goods, services, education, and the equality we deserve;" and

WHEREAS, despite these many accomplishments, the City of Burlington recognizes that deep challenges and barriers remain for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington recognizes it is not only essential that we continue to improve the accessibility of Burlington's infrastructure, events, and activities, but it is equally important that we develop community-wide awareness and understanding;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, I, Miro Weinberger, Mayor of the City of Burlington, do hereby proclaim July 10, 2015 as a day to celebrate the

25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Burlington recommits itself to upholding the ADA requirements and striving to ensure access for all in our community.


Miro Weinberger
Mayor

