

# COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

## PROCLAMATION

National Developmental Disability Awareness Month: March 2026

Disability is a social construct. The "problem" is not the medical condition that resides within the individual; the "problem" is that society does not create welcoming, supportive environments, policies, or systems for all.

We observe Developmental Disability Awareness Month in March, a time to celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of people with disabilities and to promote a better understanding of the challenges they face.

The most effective way to increase awareness is through everyone's openness to learn about and acknowledge the systemic barriers that oppress those with disabilities so that policies are developed, attitudes are reshaped, and equitable experiences are offered to all individuals, including those with disabilities.

Society misses out on the rich talents and experiences those with disabilities have to offer their communities. Citizens should do all in their power to:

Recognize the barriers presented to those with disabilities.

Recognize the value of the experiences those with disabilities have in our lives and the valued role they play in our rich diversity.

Create ways to include everyone, especially those with disabilities, in all aspects of community life.

Understand the losses (whether that be financial, spiritual, human rights, contributions to the community, or otherwise) when our communities segregate and create barriers for those with disabilities.

The City of Columbia Heights is committed to increasing public awareness and understanding of disability-related issues and to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of disability, have equitable access to and full participation in community life.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Amada Márquez Simula, on behalf of the City of Columbia Heights, do hereby proclaim March 2026 as **Developmental Disability Awareness Month** in the City of Columbia Heights, County of Anoka, State of Minnesota, U.S.A.

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**Amada Márquez Simula, Mayor**  
**March 9, 2026**