

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities are a diverse group of chronic conditions caused by physical, learning, language, or behavioral impairments that manifest before the age of 22 and impact a person's ability to perform everyday activities and live independently; and

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities affect approximately 1 in 6 children in the United States, and millions of adults, including conditions such as autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, and other neurological and genetic disorders; and

WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities possess unique strengths, talents, and perspectives, enriching our communities and contributing to the vibrancy of our society; and

WHEREAS, despite their contributions, individuals with developmental disabilities face significant challenges, including access to education, employment opportunities, healthcare, housing and independent living resources, underscoring the need for increased advocacy and public awareness; and

WHEREAS, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, celebrated in March, is an opportunity to raise awareness of these challenges, highlight the achievements of individuals with developmental disabilities, and promote respect, and equitable opportunities for all; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Bridge Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is committed to empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, education, life skills training, and social programming designed to enhance independence and promote a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that fostering understanding and inclusion is a shared responsibility that requires collaboration among families, caregivers, educators, employers, community leaders, and organizations to break down barriers and build pathways to opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Flagler Beach reaffirms its commitment to creating a welcoming, equitable, and inclusive community where individuals with developmental disabilities are celebrated, supported, and provided with opportunities to thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, (Name), Mayor of the City of Flagler Beach, do hereby proclaim March as **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** in Flagler Beach. I encourage all citizens to celebrate the abilities and achievements of individuals with developmental disabilities, support local organizations and initiatives that advocate for and empower this community, and promote understanding, inclusion, and equity in all aspects of our community life.