

**Office of the Mayor
City and Borough of Juneau**

**PROCLAMATION
IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, the white cane, which every blind citizen of Juneau, Alaska, has the right to carry, demonstrates and symbolizes the ability to achieve a full and independent life and the capacity to work productively in competitive employment; and

WHEREAS, the white cane, by allowing every blind person to move freely and safely from place to place, makes it possible for the blind to fully participate in and contribute to our society and to live the lives they want; and

WHEREAS, every citizen should be aware that the law requires that motorists and cyclists exercise appropriate caution when approaching a blind person carrying a white cane; and

WHEREAS, Juneau, Alaska, law also calls upon employers, both public and private, to be aware of and utilize the employment skills of our blind citizens by recognizing their worth as individuals and their productive capacities; and

WHEREAS, Juneau, Alaska, through its public agencies and with the cooperative assistance of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce can and should facilitate the expansion of employment opportunities for and greater acceptance of blind persons in the competitive labor market.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Beth Weldon, the Mayor of the City and Borough of Juneau, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2024, as:

WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY

in Juneau, Alaska, and do call upon our schools, colleges, and universities to offer full opportunities for training to blind persons; upon employers and the public to utilize the available skills of competent blind persons and to open new opportunities for the blind in our rapidly changing society; and upon all citizens to recognize the white cane as a tool of independence for blind pedestrians on our streets and highways.



Beth A. Weldon, Mayor