

**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK
DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH
JULY 2024**

WHEREAS, the disability experience is a natural part of life that intersects with every aspect of identity, including race, ethnicity, and social, educational, and economic background; and

WHEREAS, disability is a diverse identity in and of itself, encompassing those with physical, intellectual, developmental, emotional, invisible, acquired, chronic, device assisted disabilities, and more; and

WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities are valued members of our community, with approximately 4% of our city's demographic identify as having a disability; and

WHEREAS, disabilities should in no way diminish one's right to independence, self-determination, or engagement with society, but rather should be a celebrated aspect of one's personhood; and

WHEREAS, while the disability community has been fighting for equity and inclusion for generations, segregation on the basis of ability persists, depriving individuals with disabilities from full participation in our society and coming at a great cost both to those with disabilities who desire to live independent, productive, and fulfilling lives and to their communities, which miss out on the rich talents and experiences that those with disabilities have to offer; and

WHEREAS, the creation of equitable and inclusive environments is a matter of social justice and must be the shared responsibility of every person, regardless of ability, in order for true change to occur; and

WHEREAS, we must recognize the value and intersectionality of the disability experience in our lives, acknowledge and address the barriers presented to individuals with disabilities in our society, and appreciate that diversity makes our City stronger;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park that July be recognized as **DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH** in College Park and encourage all residents to celebrate the countless talents, experiences, and contributions of individuals with disabilities, and reaffirm our commitment to take meaningful action to build a city that is inclusive to all.

Proclaimed this 11th day of **June 2024**.

Fazlul Kabir, Mayor
City of College Park