



City of Framingham

Resolution July 19, 2022

A RESOLUTION

HONORING THE 32nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, AND THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRAMINGHAM DISABILITY COMMISSION

WHEREAS – July 26, 2022 marks the 32nd anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“the ADA”);

WHEREAS – prior to the enactment of the ADA, individuals with disabilities were too often denied the opportunity to fully participate in society due to ignorance, misunderstanding, intolerance, or unfair stereotypes;

WHEREAS – 32 years after the enactment of the ADA, it remains a crucial tool, as children and adults with disabilities still experience barriers that interfere with their full participation in life in the United States;

WHEREAS – the dedicated efforts of courageous and passionate disability rights advocates served to awaken government leaders and the American people to the discrimination and prejudice that individuals with disabilities face;

WHEREAS – the ADA has played a historic role in allowing more than 61,000,000 persons with disabilities in the United States to better participate in society by removing barriers to employment, public services, telecommunications, transportation, and public accommodations;

WHEREAS – the Americans with Disabilities Act: prohibits employers from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities; requires that State and local governmental entities accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities; requires a place of public accommodation to take reasonable steps to ensure that the goods and services it provides are accessible to individuals with disabilities; and requires new trains and buses to be accessible to individuals with disabilities;

WHEREAS – every individual in the United States, not just those with disabilities, benefits from the accommodations that have become commonplace since the passage of the ADA, including curb cuts at street intersections, ramps for access to buildings, and other accommodations that provide access to public transportation, telecommunications, voting machines, and websites;

WHEREAS – 2022 also marks the 20th Anniversary of the Framingham Disability Commission. Founded in 2002 by community leader, Karen Foran Dempsey; and established through a vote of Framingham Town Meeting in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40 Section 8J, the Framingham Disability Commission is comprised of a majority of individuals with various disabilities. The Commission works collaboratively and in an advisory capacity with City Officials and the community at-large to increase accessibility and promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED – that the City Council of Framingham, Massachusetts recognizes and honors the 20th Anniversary of the Framingham Disability Commission, the 32nd anniversary of the date of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and celebrates the advancement of freedom and the expansion of opportunity made possible by the enactment of the ADA and the work of the Framingham Disability Commission; and further urges continued collaboration among the Mayor and municipal leadership, City Council, Disability Commission, School Committee and the entire Framingham community toward further advancement in accessibility for persons with disabilities in the City of Framingham.

Offered by Councilors Janet Leombruno and Michael P. Cannon

Philip R. Ottaviani, Jr.
District Councilor 6 & Chair

Janet E. Leombruno
Councilor-at-Large & Vice-Chair

George P. King
Councilor-at-Large

Christine A. Long
District Councilor 1

Cesar Stewart-Morales
District Councilor 2

Adam Steiner
District 3 Councilor

Michael P. Cannon
District Councilor 4

Nova Alexander
District Councilor 5

Leora Mallach
District Councilor 7

John A. Stefanini
District Councilor 8

Tracey Bryant
District Councilor 9

Attested to by:

Lisa Antonio Ferguson
City Clerk

