



Proclamation

WHEREAS, fifteen years ago in July, 1990, with bipartisan Congressional support and endorsements from a vast array of Civil Rights groups, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA marked a milestone in our nation's quest to guarantee the civil rights of all citizens. In signing this legislation, in the presence of over 3,000 disability rights advocates, President Bush proclaimed the ADA to be "the world's first comprehensive declaration of the equality of people with disabilities", and he acknowledged that people with disabilities are endowed with the same inalienable rights established in the Declaration of Independence for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, for the last fifteen years, the ADA has been a success story that has solidified the foundation for an America where the talents and abilities of every person are recognized; and

WHEREAS, in the past fifteen years the City of Santa Rosa has substantially increased its commitment to the goals of the ADA by doubling its paratransit ridership, establishing ADA staff and community committees, installing audible pedestrian signals and push buttons for signalized intersections, addressing hundreds of requests for sidewalk repairs and improvements, creating and enforcing pedestrian construction detour guidelines, creating a City ADA web page, constructing and improving 1,500 pedestrian ramps, surveying the pedestrian ramp needs for the City, hosting ADA training sessions and creating an electronic database for logging in ADA requests and concerns, among other significant steps; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Rosa, along with cities, towns, counties, and states across the nation seek to promote the full participation of the more than 50 million American children and adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Rosa could not make progress in attaining the goals of the ADA without support from numerous residents, businesses, and service clubs, including the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa, and non-profit organizations, such as Community Resources for Independence, Becoming Independent, Council on Aging, Disabled Veterans, and many other organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, I, Jane Bender, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, do hereby celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and call upon all Santa Rosans to celebrate the contributions people with disabilities make to the City of Santa Rosa.