



Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1921, the first state-funded program for individuals with developmental disabilities opened in Florida; and

WHEREAS, people with a developmental disability are of all racial, ethnic, educational, social, and economic backgrounds, and all are valued members of society who find fulfillment living everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, we value what is important to people with disabilities and their families who are striving for everyday lives no different than those of all other citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ocala is stronger when all her citizens are fully integrated into their communities. This spirit of inclusion brings with it benefits at the societal, community, and individual levels, and it enables people with developmental disabilities to lead longer, healthier lives, engage more fully with the world around them, and give back to others; and

WHEREAS, early intervention, education, employment, and home and community-based services continue to be vital to enabling citizens with a developmental disability to enjoy the rights of citizenship and to participate in the life of Ocala's communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 2023, as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Ocala and I encourage all citizens to educate themselves about developmental disabilities and to support full inclusion by any means possible. As we work together to build the City of Ocala of tomorrow, we must always cherish the time-honored value of liberty and justice for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 1st day of March 2023.



Kent Guinn, Mayor
City of Ocala