



Mayoral Proclamation

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

- WHEREAS,** Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is recognized each March to promote respect for people with developmental disabilities and bring awareness of the barriers that people with developmental disabilities can face; and
- WHEREAS,** developmental disabilities are a group of conditions relating to physical, learning, language, or behavior that last throughout a person's lifetime, such as ADHD, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, intellectual disability, learning disability, and other disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the CDC estimates that about 1 in 6 children aged 3 to 17 has one or more development disabilities, and the exact number of people of all ages in the U.S. affected by intellectual and development disabilities is not known; and
- WHEREAS,** stereotyping, discrimination, and bullying toward individuals with developmental disabilities is a nationwide problem; and
- WHEREAS,** children and adults with developmental disabilities strive to be self-sufficient, learn alongside their peers, work to earn a living, and contribute to their community; and
- WHEREAS,** people with developmental disabilities should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the resources needed to live secure, fulfilling lives and access their communities and services needed; and
- WHEREAS,** awareness of barriers people with developmental disabilities can face in participating in the community, and collaboration on how to overcome those barriers, can bring about broader inclusion and better outcomes for everyone; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park aims to be an inclusive and equitable community where everyone is appreciated for their unique abilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park is a welcoming city that is dedicated to fostering acceptance and welcome of all residents and preventing discrimination and bullying; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park is stronger and more vibrant because of residents with developmental disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TALISHA SEARCY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, proclaim March 2024 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Date this 13th day of March 2024.

Talisha Searcy, Mayor