

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS, since 1925, when asked to champion the blind by Helen Keller, Lions Clubs International has a long history of serving the blind and visually impaired. We remain committed to this mission into the next century; and
- WHEREAS, Lions Clubs International Global objective for VISION is, “prevent avoidable blindness and improve quality of life for people who are blind or visually impaired;” and
- WHEREAS, the white cane, which every blind community member of Vancouver, WA has the right to carry, demonstrates and symbolizes the ability to achieve a full and independent life and the capacity to work productively in competitive employment; and
- WHEREAS, the white cane, by allowing every blind person to move freely and safely from place to place, makes it possible for the blind to fully participate in and contribute to our society and to live the lives they want; and
- WHEREAS, every community member should be aware that the law requires that motorists and cyclists exercise appropriate caution when approaching a blind person carrying a white cane; and
- WHEREAS, Vancouver, WA law also calls upon employers, both public and private, to be aware of and utilize the employment skills of our blind community members by recognizing their worth as individuals and their productive capacities; and
- WHEREAS, Vancouver, WA, through its public agencies and with the cooperative assistance of local Consumer Organizations of the Blind, including the American Council of the Blind, Washington Council of the Blind, and the National Federation of the Blind Washington can and should facilitate the expansion of employment opportunities for and greater acceptance of blind persons in the competitive labor market.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2023, to be

## **“White Cane Awareness Day”**

in the City of Vancouver and call upon our schools, colleges, and universities to offer full opportunities for training to blind persons; upon employers and the public to utilize the available skills of competent blind persons and to open new opportunities for the blind in our rapidly changing society; and upon all citizens to recognize the white cane as a tool of independence for blind pedestrians on our streets and highways.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 9th day of October, 2023.

  
ANNE MCENERNY-OGLE, MAYOR