

# Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County



## Office of the Mayor

### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law with strong bipartisan support, representing a historic commitment to the values of liberty, individual dignity, and equal opportunity for millions of Americans living with disabilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, this legislation built upon important protections already established by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973—particularly Section 504—and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which ensures that every child has the right to a quality education tailored to their needs, regardless of ability; and,

**WHEREAS**, these laws reflect deeply held principles shared by Tennesseans: that every individual is created with purpose, that families should be supported in raising their children with care and respect, and that communities thrive when everyone is given the opportunity to contribute; and,

**WHEREAS**, the people of Tennessee have long valued personal responsibility, strong families, and faith-based and local initiatives as key to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are treated with fairness, compassion, and respect; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ADA and the protections that preceded it have empowered people with disabilities to live, learn, and work with greater independence, fostering a culture of inclusion and productivity that strengthens our schools, our businesses, and our communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the city of Nashville recognizes that preserving and advancing the ideals of the ADA, IDEA, and Section 504 requires ongoing local leadership, sound governance, and a shared commitment to ensuring access and opportunity for every citizen; and,


**NOW, THEREFORE I**, Freddie O'Connell, tenth Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County do hereby proclaim July 26, 2025, as

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DAY**

in Nashville, Tennessee, and encourage all residents to join in recognizing the 35th Anniversary of the ADA and the contributions of individuals with disabilities, honoring their families and caregivers, and reaffirming our community's commitment to fairness and accessibility.



*I have hereunto set my hand on  
this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025*

  
Freddie O'Connell  
Mayor