

# City of Kingsport 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, businesses, and communities; and,

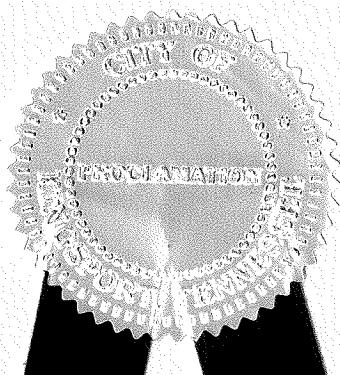
**Whereas**, the City of Kingsport recognizes that preserving and advancing the ideals of the ADA, IDEA, and Section 504 requires ongoing local leadership, sound governance, and a shared commitment to ensuring access and opportunity for every citizen.

**Now, Therefore**, I, Paul W. Montgomery, Mayor of the City of Kingsport, and on behalf of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Kingsport, do hereby proclaim July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as

## Americans with Disabilities Act

### 35th Anniversary Day

in the City of Kingsport, Tennessee, and I call upon all residents, churches, schools, businesses, and civic organizations to join in recognizing the contributions of individuals with disabilities, honoring their families and caregivers, and reaffirming our community's commitment to fairness, accessibility, and the God-given potential of every person.



**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Kingsport, Tennessee, to be affixed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty five.

*Paul W. Montgomery*  
Paul W. Montgomery, Mayor