



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> WAS DESIGNATED BY STATE LAW AS WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY IN IOWA; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE CODE OF IOWA PROVIDES THAT EVERY BLIND CITIZEN HAS THE RIGHT TO CARRY THE WHITE CANE OR USE A GUIDE DOG, WHICH DEMONSTRATES AND SYMBOLIZES THE ABILITY TO ACHIEVE A FULL AND INDEPENDENT LIFE AND THE CAPACITY TO WORK PRODUCTIVELY IN COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT; AND
- WHEREAS,** IOWA LAW ALSO PROVIDES THAT EVERY MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR WHO ENCOUNTERS A BLIND PEDESTRIAN IS REQUIRED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE CAUTIONARY ACTION TO AVOID ACCIDENT OR INJURY; AND
- WHEREAS,** BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON BLINDNESS AND SUPPORTS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND PERSONS IN THE COMPETITIVE LABOR FORCE. THE LAW ALSO PROVIDES GREATER ACCESS TO BUILDINGS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS THROUGH RAISED - LETTER MARKINGS IN ELEVATORS, PUBLIC RESTROOMS AND HOTEL DOORS; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE FEDERAL 'AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT' HAS BEEN IN FORCE FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS TO ENABLE AND STRENGTHEN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR BLIND AND OTHER PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2008, AS:

### WHITE CANE SAFETY MONTH

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES TO BE AFFIXED THIS TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF OCTOBER, TWO THOUSAND EIGHT.

**T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

