



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** THE WHITE CANE OR GUIDE DOG, WHICH EVERY BLIND CITIZEN OF OUR CITY HAS THE RIGHT TO UTILIZE, DEMONSTRATES AND SYMBOLIZES THE ABILITY OF THE BLIND TO ACHIEVE A FULL AND INDEPENDENT LIFE AND THEIR CAPACITY TO WORK PRODUCTIVELY IN COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE WHITE CANE OR GUIDE DOG, 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
- WHEREAS,** EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE LAW REQUIRES THAT MOTORISTS EXERCISE APPROPRIATE CAUTION WHEN APPROACHING A BLIND PERSON UTILIZING A WHITE CANE OR GUIDE DOG; AND
- WHEREAS,** IOWA LAW ALSO CALLS UPON EMPLOYERS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, TO BE AWARE OF AND UTILIZE THE EMPLOYMENT SKILLS OF OUR BLIND CITIZENS BY RECOGNIZING THEIR WORTH AS INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF IOWA SERVES AS A VEHICLE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION BY THE BLIND AND THROUGH ITS DES MOINES CHAPTER, WORKS TO EDUCATE EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE TRUE CAPABILITIES OF DES MOINES RESIDENTS WHO HAPPEN TO BE BLIND.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009, AS:

WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

IN THE CITY OF DES MOINES, AND DO 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 OR GUIDE DOG AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SAFETY AND INDEPENDENCE FOR BLIND PEDESTRIANS ON OUR STREETS AND HIGHWAYS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS TWELFTH DAY OF OCTOBER, TWO THOUSAND NINE.

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

