

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) became law on July 26, 1990 and continues to protect the civil rights of Americans with disabilities today; and

WHEREAS, this sweeping civil rights law prohibits discrimination based on a person's disability and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has positively impacted Americans with disabilities and expanded opportunities for them by reducing obstacles, improving perceptions, and increasing access to participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, in the words of President Barack Obama in a 2010 address, it is imperative to "renew our commitment to uphold the civil rights of those living with disabilities and to fully include all our people in the life of our nation"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington, Vermont has been dedicated to carrying out the national mandates of the ADA and the advancement of Americans, Vermonters, and Burlingtonians with disabilities; and

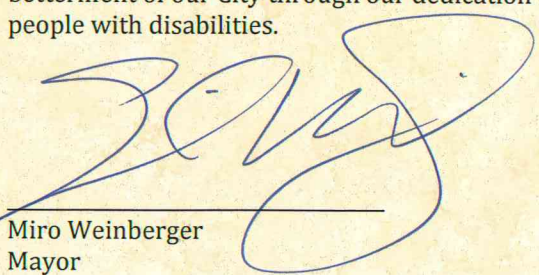
WHEREAS, the Burlington Advisory Committee on Accessibility, founded in 1990 in the wake of the passage of the ADA, was revitalized and expanded by passage of a Burlington City Council resolution on December 3, 2012 that approved Mayoral appointments to the Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington Advisory Committee on Accessibility has created the following mission statement to guide its work: "assist and advise the Mayor, the City Council and City departments on ways to increase opportunities for people with disabilities and meet the needs of people with disabilities by encouraging full and equal participation in all aspects of life. This includes the identification and removal of architectural, procedural, programmatic, attitudinal and communication barriers, and strong advocacy for policies, programs and services that meet the needs of people with disabilities";

NOW THEREFORE, I, Miro Weinberger, Mayor of the City of Burlington, do hereby proclaim that July 26, 2013 be recognized as

ADA AWARENESS DAY

and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that I do hereby reaffirm Burlington's commitment to the betterment of our City through our dedication to working toward full accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities.


Miro Weinberger
Mayor

