

RESOLUTION NO. 110816

Recognizing October 2011 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, President Harry S Truman signed the first legislation designating October as a time to promote hiring people with disabilities and to recognize their many contributions; and

WHEREAS, today, twenty percent of Americans live with a disability, and it is estimated that one in four of today's twenty year olds will be disabled before the age of sixty-five; and

WHEREAS, disability occurs in all ages, races, genders, and can strike in an instant; and

WHEREAS, disability also continues to be a stigmatizing characteristic despite legislation making it illegal to discriminate against people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, few things are more fundamental to the American Dream than working and being a productive member of society and it is through work that people contribute their skills and talents to this City and our nation; and

WHEREAS, during October, we are reminded of the outstanding contributions people make when given the opportunity to work, and we are called to rededicate ourselves to providing effective and fair employment opportunities to people with disabilities; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize October 2011 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to Gary O'Bannon, Director of Human Resources, City of Kansas City, Missouri, Derrick Willis, UMKC Institute of Human Development, Julie Steenson, ADA Coordinator, City of Kansas City, Missouri, with the Mayor and Council urging all citizens to open the doors of opportunity for these qualified persons and give them an equal chance to prove their capabilities in the workplace, so that they might gain dignity, equality and independence through employment.

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