

Proclamation

WHEREAS,

White canes were introduced in the 1930s as a way of assisting visually impaired pedestrians to travel independently; they were painted white to be more easily visible and to help motorists identify and yield to people using the white cane; and



WHEREAS,

the use of white canes has been protected by law in the United States since their origin, and in the 1960s, the National Federation of the Blind became a leader in fighting for the rights of the blind and in pioneering innovative training programs using the white cane; and



WHEREAS,

on October 6, 1964, the United States Congress adopted a joint resolution designating October 15th of each year as White Cane Safety Day, recognizing that white canes enable blind people to travel safely and independently; and



WHEREAS,

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the first White Cane Safety Day proclamation within hours of the passage of the joint resolution, and in 2011, President Barack Obama referred to the White Cane Safety Day as Blind Americans Equality Day; and



WHEREAS,

the emphasis of White Cane Safety Day has shifted over time away from safety, and toward independence and equality, and now celebrates the achievements of blind or visually impaired people, and highlights the white cane as an important mobility tool;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes White Cane Safety Day as a day to bring awareness to the rights of blind and visually impaired citizens to be mobile and independent citizens, and thanks the Department of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance and the Commission on Disability Affairs for their invaluable advocacy of the rights and needs of citizens with disabilities, and does hereby proclaim Sunday, October 15, 2023 as "WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY" in Fulton County, Georgia.



Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Chair to the Commission

Commissioner

Vice Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner

Attest:

Commissioner

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y