

**Whereas**, the month of March has been designated as “Disabilities Awareness Month” to celebrate and recognize people with disabilities; and

**Whereas**, disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals with disabilities to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society and experience in full the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of American Society; and

**Whereas** family members, friends and members of the Westland Community can play a central role in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities especially when the family and community are provided with necessary support services; and public and private employers are aware of the capabilities of people living with disabilities to be engaged in competitive work in inclusive settings; and

**Whereas**, the goals of Westland include providing individuals living with disabilities the opportunities and support to make informed choices and decisions; live in homes and communities where such individuals can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens; pursue meaningful and productive lives; contribute to their family, community, State and Nation; have interdependent friendships and relationships with others; and achieve full inclusion in society; and

**Whereas**, citizens of Westland should do all in their power to; (i) Recognize the value and intersectionality of the disability experience in our lives and the valued role it has in our rich diversity, (ii) Recognize the barriers presented to those with disabilities, (iii) Create ways to include everyone, especially those living with developmental disabilities, so they participate fully in all aspects of life, (iv) Understand the losses (financial, spiritual, human rights, contributions to community, and otherwise) incurred when our communities segregate and create barriers for those with disabilities, (v) Demand policymakers avoid segregation and create inclusive and equitable policies and systems for all.

**Therefore**, be it known that the City Council of the City of Westland and its Mayor do hereby proclaim the month of March 2023 as

## **DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

**In the City of Westland and all Residents are encouraged to celebrate it.**