Fitzgerald Proclaims July 26 as “Americans with Disabilities Act Day”

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has proclaimed July 26, 2021 as “Americans with Disabilities Act Day” in Allegheny County. Signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990, this year marks the 31st anniversary of its enactment.

“This county and this region are most successful when we work together, and when everyone in the community can participate,” said Fitzgerald. “That is the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and it is just as relevant today as it was 31 years ago when it was passed. We want Allegheny County to be known as an inclusive community where everyone can live with dignity, engage actively, and contribute to their community. And we will continue to work with those constituents and communities to make that happen.”

In addition to the proclamation, the county’s social media channels will mark the anniversary by welcoming residents to tell their story through video, pictures, written word or other and then posting on social media with #ADA31 or #ThanksToTheADA as part of a nationwide effort by the ADA National Network.

The text of the proclamation follows in its entirety:

**WHEREAS,** the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is one of the most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation and was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990; this year marks the 31st anniversary of its enactment;

**WHEREAS,** the ADA is committed to supporting human rights and basic freedoms of individuals with disabilities; through the law’s five titles, individuals are ensured equal opportunity in employment, public entities, commercial accommodations, telecommunications, and transportation; and

**WHEREAS,** in Allegheny County, our efforts have always been focused at helping all of our residents and ensuring that everyone can participate regardless of their abilities; the Parks Department has partnered with Hockey Sticks Together Foundation and the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation to provide dek hockey sessions for children with special needs; Parks has also partnered with ENVISION Blind Sports to offer a summer hockey camp in North Park; and

**WHEREAS,** the county’s new voting system includes an ExpressVote at every polling place to allow every voter to participate in the democratic process, no matter their abilities; throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has ensured that there was ASL interpretation for all briefings, and offered clinics and testing aimed at individuals with special needs to ensure their health was protected; and,

**WHEREAS,** the county continues to be a proud partner in the career transition project for individuals with disabilities and is focused on ensuring that support services are available for any of its departments for residents who need assistance in accessing services or information; and
WHEREAS, Allegheny County is proud to affirm the principals of equity and inclusion embodied in the ADA and welcome everyone in our community, regardless of abilities. We will continue to strive to improve the quality of life and enrich social integration for those who have special needs by working with those constituents and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2021 as “Americans with Disabilities Act Day” in Allegheny County and extend greetings and best wishes to all observing today.

FURTHER, I do hereby encourage agencies, businesses, and all members of the public to celebrate the advancement of the ADA and continue to implement its provisions and work collaboratively to pursue the goals of equality of opportunity, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living for people with disabilities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 26th day of July, 2021.

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