City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: more than one in four U.S. adults, or an estimated 70 million Americans, have some type of disability, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

Whereas: October 2026 marks the 81st anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual observance recognizing the contributions of workers with disabilities and the importance of expanding employment opportunities; and

Whereas: the 2026 National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme, "Celebrating Value and Talent," recognizes the skills, perspectives and contributions people with disabilities bring to workplaces, communities and the economy; and

Whereas: people with disabilities continue to experience barriers to employment and disparities in workforce participation and unemployment; and

Whereas: workplaces that recognize and welcome the talents of people with disabilities strengthen organizations, expand opportunity and contribute to inclusive communities and a strong economy; and

Whereas: the City of Bellevue recognizes the diversity, experiences and contributions of people with disabilities and works to make city employment, programs, services and facilities accessible and inclusive; and

Whereas: through efforts including accessible hiring practices, reasonable accommodations, supported employment and partnerships with community organizations, Bellevue continues working to expand employment opportunities and advance disability inclusion.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim **October 2026**, as

Disability Employment Awareness Month

in Bellevue, Washington, and encourage all residents and employers to recognize the value and talent of people with disabilities and to support efforts throughout the year to recruit, hire, retain, develop and advance individuals with disabilities in our workplaces and community.

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Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue