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Fred Bilotto, Mayor

**Proclamation to Declare March 14, 2024
Intellectual and Disability Awareness Day in Blue Island, Illinois**

WHEREAS, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month reminds the public to bring awareness, educate, and respect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, an effective way to increase awareness is by participating in community activities with people with disabilities and acknowledging every individual's contribution to our community; and

WHEREAS, people are encouraged to shift their thinking from trying to 'fix' a disability and instead, focus on supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, rather than telling individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities what they should do, we should ask them what they would like to do for their community and look for ways to support their efforts; and

WHEREAS, as we treat everyone with dignity, respect and kindness, we will continue to spread awareness, educate, and respect throughout our communities, schools and workplaces, so that all people are embraced; and

WHEREAS, each one of us can honor our diversity and contribute to continuing to make Blue Island, Illinois, a great place to live.

Now, therefore, I, Mayor Fred Bilotto, Mayor of the City of Blue Island, Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 14, 2024, as Intellectual and Developmental Disability Awareness Day and encourage all citizens to work together to promote and increase awareness and understanding of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Signed: _____

Mayor Fred Bilotto

City of Blue Island, Illinois

Date: _____

3/14/24