



A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH IN NEW ALBANY

WHEREAS, National Service Dog Month aims to educate our community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting them; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, 64 million adults and children have a disability, only 16,000 service dogs from accredited programs exist nationwide, and less than 1% of people with disabilities that could qualify have a service dog.; and

WHEREAS, Canine Companions created the concept of service dogs for people with physical disabilities, training the first service dog in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Canine Companions provides task-trained service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities, and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice, rehabilitation and educational settings; the dogs and all follow-up services are provided at no cost to clients, and Canine Companions puppies are specially bred, raised and trained for their future careers; and

WHEREAS, Canine Companions and their service dogs empower people to lead life with greater independence, by providing best-in-class training, ongoing follow-up services, and a deeply committed community of support; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Albany has witnessed first-hand the joy and bond that these service dogs bring not just to those they have been trained to help, but to the entire community, by the love and patience they exhibit.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor of the City of New Albany, Counties of Franklin and Licking, State of Ohio, on behalf of Council and the residents of New Albany, recognize September as **NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH** and encourage all citizens to celebrate task-trained service dogs and be respectful of the rights afforded to the adults, children, and veterans who lead more independent lives because of their assistance.

WHEREBY, I set my hand and seal this 15th day of September, 2024.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Sloan T. Spalding", is written over a horizontal line.

Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor