

**City of Port Townsend**  
**Office of the Mayor**

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**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act was intended to guarantee the civil rights of persons with disabilities including equal opportunities for employment; equal access to government services, programs and activities; and equal access to places of public accommodations; and

**WHEREAS**, disabilities know no boundaries and affect people of all races, religions, ages, cultures, economic groups, and educational levels; and

**WHEREAS**, disabilities affect more than 5,130 people five years of age and older who live in Jefferson County (or, more than 19% of the population) including sensory, physical, mental and cognitive disabilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, in Jefferson County residents with disabilities are unemployed at least twice the rate of non-disabled residents; and,

**WHEREAS**, in Jefferson County 40% to 45% of students with disabilities who graduate are unemployed; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing physical barriers can often be easily achieved, while changing misperceptions and rejecting stereotypes can create the greatest opportunities for all, including those with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing barriers to participation for persons with disabilities requires cooperative, sustained and consistent effort, and is the responsibility of the entire community including the economic, governmental, educational, health care, criminal justice, religious and social welfare infrastructure, to ensure that people with disabilities can participate fully in the workplace and all aspects of community life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Port Townsend recognizes the demonstrated benefits of a diverse workforce and the valuable contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michelle Sandoval, Mayor of the City of Port Townsend, do hereby proclaim October as

**NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT MONTH**

And ask everyone to participate in efforts to recognize the serious impact that physical and attitudinal barriers create to full community participation for persons with disabilities; to work to eliminate these barriers to participation; to join in efforts to increase the accessibility of the City of Port Townsend for persons with disabilities; and urge all citizens to join in observing this occasion.



*Michelle Sandoval*

Michelle Sandoval, Mayor  
October 3, 2011