



# PROCLAMATION *of the* TOWN OF KNIGHTDALE

## **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, a developmental disability can limit an individual in three or more of the following areas: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, people living with a developmental disability are of all racial, ethnic, educational, social, and economic backgrounds, and all are valued members of society; and

**WHEREAS**, we can all contribute to improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities by becoming advocates and supporters of their increased independence, capacity, and leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is an injury to the brain occurring after birth as a result of an external force to the head; and

**WHEREAS**, TBI can sometimes be an “invisible” condition, creating many challenges around stigmas, awareness, understanding, and acceptance; and

**WHEREAS**, the most effective way to increase awareness is through openness to learn and acknowledge that there are systemic barriers that reduce the likelihood of those with developmental disabilities or TBI enjoying equitable experiences and living independent, productive lives within their communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jessica Day, Mayor of the Town of Knightdale, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as

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and galvanize efforts that will lead our communities and policy makers to create real system changes so people with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries will enjoy equitable, inclusive lives.

This is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

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Heather Smith, Town Clerk

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Jessica Day, Mayor