

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the white cane, which every blind citizen of Beckley West Virginia has the right to carry, demonstrates and symbolizes the availability to achieve a full and independent life and the capacity to work productively in competitive employment; and

**WHEREAS**, the white cane, by allowing every blind person to move freely and safely from place to place, makes it possible for the blind to fully participate in and contribute to our society and to live the lives they want; and

**WHEREAS**, every citizen should be aware that the law requires that motorists and cyclists exercise appropriate caution when approaching a blind person carrying a white cane; and

**WHEREAS**, Beckley, West Virginia law also calls upon employers, both public and private, to be aware of and utilize the employment skills of our blind citizens by recognizing their worth as individuals and their productive capacities; and

**WHEREAS**, Beckley, West Virginia, through its public agencies and with the cooperative assistance of Mountain State Centers for Independent Living, can and should facilitate the expansion of employment opportunities for and greater acceptance of blind persons in the competitive labor market:

**NOW THEREFORE, I**, Robert. R. Rappold, Mayor of the City of Beckley, West Virginia, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2020, as:

### **WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY**

In Beckley, West Virginia and do call upon our schools, colleges, and universities to offer full opportunities from training to blind persons; upon employers and the public to utilize the available skills of competent blind persons; to open new opportunities for the blind in our rapidly changing society; and, upon all citizens to recognize the white cane as a tool of independence for blind pedestrians on our streets and highways.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Beckley to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_/signed\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert R. Rappold  
MAYOR, CITY OF BECKLEY, WV