

PROCLAMATION

OCTOBER 15, 2021 NATIONAL WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

WHEREAS: Throughout the world the long white cane is used by people who are blind or visually impaired as a tool for safe and reliable navigation, and

WHEREAS: Blindness and severe visual impairment affect approximately 285 million blind or partially sighted people worldwide according to the World Blind Union, and

WHEREAS: The white cane allows every blind person to move freely and safely from place to place, making it possible for the blind to fully participate in and contribute to our society, and to live the lives they want, and

WHEREAS: The cane is a symbol of the user's skills, talents, mobility and independence, and the cane is a symbol to the sighted person that the user is visually impaired, and

WHEREAS: RCW 70.84.040 The driver of a vehicle approaching a totally or partially blind pedestrian who is carrying a cane predominantly white in color (with or without a red tip), a totally or partially blind or hearing impaired pedestrian using a dog guide, a person with physical disabilities using a service animal, or a person with a disability using a wheelchair or a power wheelchair as defined in RCW 46.04.415 shall take all necessary precautions to avoid injury to such pedestrian or wheelchair user. Any driver who fails to take such precaution shall be liable in damages for any injury caused such pedestrian or wheelchair user. It shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to drive into or upon any crosswalk while there is on such crosswalk such pedestrian or wheelchair user crossing or attempting to cross the roadway, if such pedestrian or wheelchair user is using a white cane, using a dog guide, using a service animal, or using a wheelchair or a power wheelchair as defined in RCW 46.04.415. The failure of any such pedestrian or wheelchair user so to signal shall not deprive him or her of the right-of-way accorded him or her by other laws.

WHEREAS: In 1925 Helen Keller challenged Lions Clubs International to be "Knights of the Blind", and

WHEREAS: In 1930 Lion George A. Bonham, President of the Peoria Lions Club, Illinois introduced the idea of using the white cane with a red band as a means of assisting the blind in independent mobility, and

WHEREAS: The Sedro-Woolley Lions, being a non-profit organization and part of Lions Clubs International strive to meet the needs and assist the blind, visually impaired and hearing impaired, and

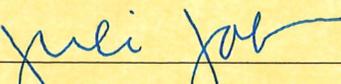
WHEREAS: In 1964 the U.S. Congress approved a resolution authorizing the President of the United States to annually issue a proclamation designating October 15th as "National White Cane Safety Day" and

WHEREAS: In 1969 the International Federation of the Blind adopted October 15th as "International White Cane Safety Day"

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, I Mayor Julia Johnson on behalf of the residents of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2021 as **NATIONAL WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY** in Sedro-Woolley and also acknowledge the importance of pedestrian safety year-round

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto subscribed my name to be affixed this 13th day of October 2021.





Julia Johnson, Mayor