

# City of Lawton Proclamation

*Whereas*, the white cane is used by Lawton residents who are legally blind to allow them to navigate our city and access its public places, schools and businesses; and

*Whereas*, with proper training, people using the white cane can enjoy greater mobility and safety by determining the location of curbs, steps, uneven pavement, and other physical obstacles in their path; and

*Whereas*, the white cane has opened the doors of opportunity to thousands of blind Oklahomans by enabling them to travel freely and independently in their communities; and

*Whereas*, the white cane is now universally recognized as a symbol of blindness that improves the safety of blind pedestrians by alerting drivers when a visually impaired person is crossing a street, parking area or to other areas open to the public; and

*Whereas*, Oklahoma law requires vehicle drivers to come to a full stop at least 15 feet away from a visually impaired pedestrian using a white cane or dog guide and take such precautions before proceeding as may be necessary to avoid an accident or injury to the person who is wholly or partially blind; and

*Whereas*, to honor the many achievements of blind and visually impaired citizens and to recognize the white cane's significance in advancing independence, the United States Congress, by joint resolution approved October 6, 1964, has designated October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year as "White Cane Safety Day".

*Now, therefore*, I, Stan Booker, Mayor of the City of Lawton do hereby proclaim October 15, 2021 as

## White Cane Safety Day

in the City of Lawton and urge all to observe this day by recognizing the significance of the white cane, both as a symbol of independence and as a symbol impacting technology that enables Oklahoma residents with visual disabilities to participate more fully in the social and economic life of our state.

*In witness whereof*, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, to be affixed hereto this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

---

*Stan Booker, Mayor*