*Proclamation*

Blind Americans Equality Day

October 15, 2018

**WHEREAS,** residents who are blind or low vision have the right to achieve a full and independent life and access to competitive employment and equal opportunities; and

**WHEREAS,** Blind Americans Equality Day promotes awareness of the contributions that our residents who are blind or low vision make toward the social and economic development of our community; and

**WHEREAS,** on this day we celebrate all of the achievements of residents who are blind or low vision and recommit ourselves to ensuring that all residents of the Washington, DC have the opportunity to achieve success and reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS,** the white cane, guide dogs, and assistive technology are tools and key to greater mobility, independence, and dignity for citizens who are blind or low vision; and

**WHEREAS,** all residents should utilize compass when approaching a citizen using a white cane or guide dog:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC,** do hereby proclaim October 15, 2018, in Washington, DC as **“Blind Americans Equality Day”**.

Muriel Bowser

Mayor, District of Columbia