

Proclamation White Cane Safety Day

Whereas, blindness or low vision affects individuals of all ages, all income levels, all genders and all cultures; and

Whereas, there are different degrees of visual impairment, meaning that someone may be legally blind but still can see colors, shapes, movements and varying degrees of light; and

Whereas, white canes and guide dogs are tools that people who are blind or visually impaired use to identify themselves and to navigate their environments with greater independence; and

Whereas, white cane and guide dog users have the right to travel safely while enjoying all of the rights, benefits and privileges of living, working and playing in this great city of Bend; and

Whereas, everyone should be aware that Oregon law requires drivers to stop and remain stopped until a person carrying a white cane or using a guide dog has completely crossed the street; and

Whereas, October 15th was designated in 1964 by the United States Congress as a day of education and celebration of the advent of white canes and guide dogs for independence and safe travel:

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Bend City Council hereby proclaim October 15, 2025 to be White Cane Awareness Day in Bend and call upon public officials, members of civic organizations and ALL people in the city of Bend to join together as we work to ensure that the rights, benefits and privileges of life in our lovely city are safely available to all community members and visitors who are blind or visually diverse.

Dated October 1, 2025.

Melanie Kebler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ashley Bontje, City Recorder