

ERIN MENDENHALL Mayor

## PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS,* about 20 percent of people live with an invisible or hidden disability which amounts to approximately 66 million Americans; and

*WHEREAS*, October 15 through 21 is observed as National Invisible Disabilities Week which seeks to bring awareness, support, and education to persons living with invisible disabilities; and

*WHEREAS*, the term "invisible disabilities", as created and defined by the Invisible Disability Association (IDA,) distinguishes disabilities not readily apparent based upon looking at an individual, leading the individual to fight a battle seldom acknowledged by the outside world; and

*WHEREAS*, people with invisible disabilities are often accused of faking or exaggerating their conditions because there are no obvious signs of disability, which adversely affects accommodations, medical resources, and overall support for this community; and

*WHEREAS*, we appreciate all members of our community living with invisible disabilities and value the unique contributions made by them, including those who participate on Salt Lake City's Accessibility and Disability Commission; and

*WHEREAS*, we are thankful for the guidance of the Salt Lake City Accessibility and Disability Commission, whose membership includes people with disabilities and representatives from disability organizations, advocacy groups, and public health organizations, for their support and education on invisible disabilities.

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Erin Mendenhall, Mayor of Salt Lake City, proclaim October 15-21, 2023, as:

Invisible Disabilities Week in Salt Lake City

October 10, 2023

endenhal

Mayor