

Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH

WHEREAS, we believe in the joyful, transformative power of the human-canine bond and the importance of fostering a fully inclusive community for all; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, approximately 70 million adults live with a disability, yet only about 16,000 service dogs from accredited training programs are currently available to assist, creating a significant and growing demand for these invaluable companions; and

WHEREAS, Canine Companions is a pioneering nonprofit organization that created the concept of service dogs for people with physical disabilities, training the first service dog, Abdul, in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Canine Companions has since expanded its mission and now serves individuals with more than 65 different types of disabilities, providing expertly trained service dogs free of charge, along with lifelong support to ensure enduring and effective partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Canine Companions currently operates eight regional training centers across the country, has placed more than 8,200 service dog teams since its founding, and supports over 2,800 active teams nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the need for service dogs continues to grow, with more than 500 individuals currently on the waitlist to be matched with a Canine Companions service dog; and

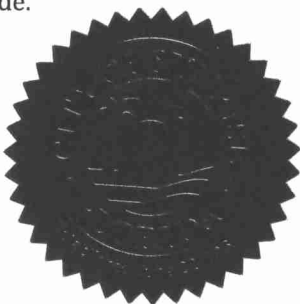
WHEREAS, National Service Dog Month raises public awareness about the life-changing impact of service dogs, highlights the rights and protections afforded to individuals with disabilities under the law, and celebrates the organizations and animals that make greater independence possible; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sunrise remains committed to promoting inclusivity and accessibility for all residents and visitors, including those who are accompanied by service dogs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael J. Ryan, Mayor of the City of Sunrise, Florida together with the City Commissioners hereby proclaim the month of September 2026 as

NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH

in the City of Sunrise and encourage all residents to honor and support the important role that service dogs play in the lives of adults, children, and veterans ensuring respect for their rights and celebrating the freedom and independence these extraordinary dogs help provide.



Witness My Hand and Official Seal of
The City of Sunrise, Florida

Michael J. Ryan, Mayor