

DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY

July 26, 2018

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Rockland County recognizes that the ultimate goal of all governmental action and service is to improve the quality of life for all Rockland County residents; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) which establishes a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, **BRiDGES** has had a leading role, both in Rockland County and throughout the region, in the implementation of the goals of full inclusion as enumerated in the ADA; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1986, **BRiDGES**, which stands for Building Relationships, Investing in Diversity, and Genuinely Empowering Self, has promoted an independent living philosophy, championing consumer empowerment and control, and pledging to help individuals, regardless of disability to live independently in all areas of life; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, **BRiDGES** has continued to extend services in many vitally important areas, focusing on promoting leadership and autonomy while providing advocacy for people with disabilities, including increased peer services, the development of employment opportunities for Veterans and the expansion of the agency's mental health and substance abuse services; and

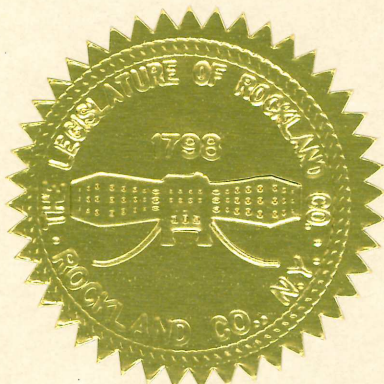
WHEREAS, in conjunction with the 28th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act this Legislature joins with **BRiDGES** today to celebrate the progress made, and reaffirming the principles of equality and inclusion while recommitting our efforts to reach full ADA compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Rockland County Legislature extends a special recognition to today's award recipients, TOUCH, CDPAANYS, Victoria Iglesias, Candida Lagrange and Martine Arline as their unique challenges and contributions are a testament to the success of **BRiDGES**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Toney L. Earl, Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature, on behalf of the entire Legislature, do hereby publicly and formally express our gratitude, praise and appreciation, as we hereby proclaim July 26, 2018 as **DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY IN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have caused the seal of the County of Rockland to be affixed this 26th day of July 2018.

HON. TONEY L. EARL
Chairman of the Legislature



LAURENCE O. TOOLE
Clerk to the Legislature