



Proclamation

Deaf History Month March 13 – April 15, 2023

WHEREAS, in 2006, the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) declared Deaf History Month an official national event; and

WHEREAS, National Deaf History Month commemorates three historical events that are the basis for this celebration of deaf culture and the representation of significant advancements; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 1817, the first public school for the deaf, the American School for the Deaf, opened in Hartford, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 1864, Gallaudet University was founded, and President Abraham Lincoln signed the charter on this day establishing the first college for the deaf; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 1988, J. King Jordan becomes the first deaf president of Gallaudet University after students successfully protested in what is called the *Deaf President Now*; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 30 million deaf or hard of hearing persons in the U.S and 430 million people worldwide with hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, more than ninety percent of deaf children are born to hearing parents, and many deaf parents also have hearing children since most causes of deafness are due to reasons other than genetics; and

WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that people who are deaf have equal access to the many benefits and opportunities available in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Mayor Juan F. Rodriguez, do hereby proclaim March 13 – April 15, 2023 as Deaf History Month in the City of Tolleson to bring awareness and appreciation of deaf culture, heritage and American Sign Language to the general public.

Given under my hand in these free United States in the City of Tolleson, on this fourteenth day of March, two thousand twenty-three, and to which I have caused the Seal of the City of Tolleson to be affixed and have made this proclamation public.



Juan F. Rodriguez

Juan F. Rodriguez, Mayor

ATTEST: *Crystal Zamora*

Crystal Zamora, City Clerk