

**MAYOR’S PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS,
INC. AND DECLARING JULY 21, 2018 AS “DAY OF INCLUSION”
IN THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE**

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, children and adults with intellectual disabilities lived in the shadows of society, were hidden away in homes or institutions and didn’t have the chance to go to school, to work or to play; and

WHEREAS, no one imagined that this segment of society could acquire athletic and socialization skills or possibly benefit from the therapeutic value of sports and exercise. Few people conceived of the notion that sports could further their mental and adaptive development in the world; and

WHEREAS, one day in July 1968 the world began to change with a day-long citywide track meet held in Chicago’s Soldier Field for people with special needs that put a bright and very public spotlight on *ability*, not *disability*; and

WHEREAS, within the next year, a number of Special Olympics programs formed across the U.S. and in Canada. The program crossed international borders not long after. Today, more than five million athletes train and compete in more than 100,000 events each year and in 172 nations; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the City of Pflugerville Parks & Recreation Department became a Special Olympics affiliate for adult participants with the creation of the Pflugerville PFLAMES. The PFLAMES started with three athletes and now has twenty-three and has had much success in competitions with state qualifiers and winners of numerous medals and ribbons.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, VICTOR GONZALES, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS, INC. AND DECLARE JULY 21, 2018 AS THE “DAY OF INCLUSION” IN THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS.

In Witness Whereof, I cause the Official Seal of the City of Pflugerville to be affixed this 10th day of July 2018.

Victor Gonzales, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Thompson, City Secretary