



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2024-73

NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH

WHEREAS, National Service Dog month aims to educate the community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting them; and

WHEREAS, there is a joyful and transformative power of the human-canine bond and inclusivity of all people; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, 64 million adults and children have a disability and only 16,000 service dogs from accredited training programs exist nationwide and the need is growing; and

WHEREAS, Canine Companions is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities with expertly trained service dogs which empower people with disabilities to lead life with greater independence, by providing best-in-class training, ongoing follow up services and a deeply committed community of support; and

WHEREAS, Charles County continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all adults and children with disabilities in our community and their service dogs, are embraced.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM September 2024 as **NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH** in Charles County and encourage all citizens to celebrate service dogs and be respectful of the rights afforded to the adults, children and veterans who lead more independent lives because of their assistance.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*

Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*
District 4

Gilbert O. Bowling, III
District 1

Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
District 2

Amanda M. Stewart, EdD.
District 3



Attest:

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners