



# CITY OF MANCHESTER

## Proclamation

*Whereas*, people with developmental disabilities are of all racial, ethnic, educational, social, and economic backgrounds; and,

*Whereas*, society values all people with developmental disabilities who find fulfillment living everyday lives; and,

*Whereas*, Lafayette Industries is a sheltered workshop that a group of caring parents founded in 1976 to provide employment opportunities for their grown children with developmental disabilities; and,

*Whereas*, Lafayette Industries' mission is to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and to persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older in order to enhance those persons' self-worth and dignity through employment, to provide high-quality business service through packaging, light assembly, and commercial mailings, to operate in a professional and fiscally responsible manner, and to provide fair wages and good benefits; and,

*Whereas*, Lafayette Industries has grown from a one-room facility in Valley Park, Missouri, with sixteen employees doing hand-assembly and packaging for area businesses into an organization operating at two locations in Manchester, Missouri, and Berkeley, Missouri, with a total of 105,000 square feet, including 50,000 square feet of production space and 2,500 pallet spaces of storage, and 411 employees; and,

*Whereas*, providing meaningful employment opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities continues to be vital to enabling those individuals to enjoy the rights of citizenship and to participate in communities throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

*Now, Therefore*, I, Mike Clement, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Manchester, do hereby proclaim March 2020 as **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** to recognize the many accomplishments and contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities, and to recognize Lafayette Industries in providing meaningful employment opportunities to those individuals.

*In Testimony Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Manchester, St. Louis County, Missouri to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2020.

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Mike Clement, Mayor