



## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS:** National Service Dog Month is celebrated in September to recognize the vital role service dogs play in the lives of people with disabilities and to raise awareness about supporting organizations that train and place them, and

**WHEREAS:** A service dog's responsibility is to perform tasks that directly assist a person with a disability and provide comfort, safety and companionship. They can be trained to guide a blind person, retrieve dropped objects, open a door, assist with balance, give seizure or diabetic alerts, or provide a reminder to take medication. They also serve wounded veterans suffering from PTSD or traumatic brain injury, and

**WHEREAS,** With 70 million Americans living with a disability, only 16,000 service dogs from accredited training programs exist nationwide, and

**WHEREAS:** Canine Companions, created in 1975 and celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, provides expertly trained service dogs and ongoing support free of charge. With a new field office in Seattle, Canine Companions is working to directly serve local communities in Washington, and

**WHEREAS:** The City of Ridgefield continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all residents, and their service dogs, are welcome and respected.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, MATT COLE, Mayor of the City of Ridgefield, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2025 as

### ***“SERVICE DOG MONTH”***

and urge all residents to promote understanding of the positive impact service dogs have on the independence and quality of life for people with disabilities and to help foster acceptance of service dogs in public places.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025.

CITY OF RIDGEFIELD



Matt Cole, Mayor