

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
September 16, 2014	

TO: Mayor Shoji and City Councilors

FROM: Jackie Mickelson, Executive Assistant

THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE **Presentation on “Look Me in the Eye” Proclamation**

BACKGROUND

The *Look Me in the Eye* campaign originated when a disabled person was asked where to begin when interacting with a person who has a disability. Without missing a beat that person said, “You can start by looking me in the eye.” This message was heard loud and clear, and it has set the stage for reaching out to the community, raising awareness about the rights of people with disabilities, and most importantly, the rights to be respected, included and acknowledged in our community.

In August 2010, the Oregon Supported Living Program (OSLP) and Full Access began a *Look Me in the Eye* campaign. The campaign was in an effort to provide people with a better understanding of a problem and to help break down barriers between people, especially those who experience a developmental disability. OSLP thought that looking someone in the eye was a good place to start.

ADVANTAGES

This proclamation will encourage communities to grow closer through recognizing each other’s abilities and differences.

DISADVANTAGES

None

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

RELATED TO CITY GOAL

- Citizen Education and Involvement
- City Policies, Procedures, and Partnerships

ACTION REQUESTED:

If it pleases the council, please approve the “Look Me in the Eye” Proclamation.



Proclamation

Whereas, All citizens want and deserve the opportunity to meaningfully participate in all aspects of our community, and our communities can grow closer through recognizing each other's abilities, commonalities, and differences; and

Whereas, Our communities gain value as they are more aware of the capabilities of, and provide opportunities for, individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to be part of their communities; and,

Whereas, it is in the public's interest for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to live and work in our communities, exercising their full rights and responsibilities as citizens:

Now, Therefore, I, Crystal Shoji, Mayor of the City of Coos Bay, do hereby proclaim September 2014,

Look Me in the Eye

month and encourage all citizens of our communities to participate in seeing, respecting, and including one another.

In witness thereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Coos Bay to be affixed on this 16th day of September 2014.

Crystal Shoji, Mayor