



- WHEREAS:** The City of Savannah takes this occasion to acknowledge the Chatham County Association of the Deaf (CCAD) for their dedication and admirable service to the deaf and hard of hearing citizens of Southeast Coastal Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** CCAD is a deaf and hard of hearing advocacy and support organization founded by Dr. Frank Lala in 2010. Dr. Lala also served as president of the Georgia Association of the Deaf (GAD) and works with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD); and
- WHEREAS:** CCAD, under the leadership of Dr. Frank Lala and CCAD officers and members, set out to revolutionize how the deaf community envisions change and emphasize the importance of self-advocacy; and
- WHEREAS:** CCAD received statewide recognition for its work in self-advocacy and collaboration with other allies like the Savannah-Chatham Council on Disability Issues (SCCDI), Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA), and Living Independence for Everyone (L.I.F.E.) to better the lives of deaf citizens with emphasis on the importance of certified American Sign Language Interpreters; and
- WHEREAS:** The month of September has been designated as Deaf Awareness Month by the National Association of the Deaf, and the last Sunday in September has been designated the International Day of Signed Language by the World Federation of the Deaf; and
- WHEREAS:** Deaf Awareness Month 2019 provides the unique opportunity for the CCAD to promote public awareness of deaf citizens' rights to equal accessibility and accommodation; and
- WHEREAS:** In celebration of Deaf Awareness Month, CCAD is holding a discussion panel on the subject of Law Enforcement and Deaf Drivers Training, September 21, 2019, at Trinity Lutheran Church. The panel discussion will be led by Dr. Frank Lala, with other panelists to include Savannah and Chatham County Law Enforcement officers: Chiefs Roy Minter, Jeff Hadley, Gilbert Ballard, and Lt. Lindsey Talley, Sheriff John Wilcher and ADA Coordinator James Aberson.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Eddie W. DeLoach, Mayor of the City of Savannah, do hereby proclaim September 2019 as:

## "DEAF AWARENESS MONTH"

in Savannah, Georgia.



*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Savannah, Georgia to be affixed.*

*This 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2019*

*Eddie W. DeLoach*

ATTEST

*M. H. Johnson*  
Clerk of Council

MAYOR