NFB of Delaware Resolution 2022 – 2 DE

Regarding rational principles governing the deployment of Accessible Pedestrian Signals in Delaware

WHEREAS, Accessible pedestrian signals (APS) are devices designed to communicate information about the WALK and DON'T WALK intervals at signalized intersections in nonvisual ways that are useful to pedestrians who are blind; and

WHEREAS, APS technology has been around for more than three decades, progressing from devices which used the sounds of chirping birds, cuckoo clocks, or slow/rapid clicks to convey information about the state of the WALK signal to the preferred more modern accessible pedestrian signals operating in various municipalities today which utilize verbal prompts and vibrating buttons; and

WHEREAS, the placement of these APS is governed in Delaware by DELDOT with consultation from The Delaware Division of the Visually Impaired; and

WHEREAS, APS have been placed using this process, But others have been denied without clear explanation of the denial; and

WHEREAS, the rates of pedestrian accidents are concerning to DELDOT and the public; and

WHEREAS, the best people to engage in the decision-making process, to ensure reasoning that makes sense to the community that will be using the product, are blind constituents; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware, assembled in virtual convention on this twenty second day of October 2022, that this organization calls upon all governmental jurisdictions in the state of Delaware. When considering the installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS), to work actively with members of the Delaware blind community, such as members of the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware and other organizations, to develop a clear decision-making process for the deployment of APS based on the following principles:

Not all street crossings present an insurmountable barrier to the average blind person

The placement of an APS will be based on the complexity of the street crossing.

The decisions concerning the placement of APS should be done with consultation of representative members of the Delaware blind community such as members of the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware.

This resolution was unanimously approved on October 22, 2022