

**IN RECOGNITION OF
NATIONAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH
APRIL 2026**

- WHEREAS,** APRIL IS RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH (FORMERLY AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH), FOCUSING ON FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING, INCLUSION, AND SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM. THROUGHOUT THE MONTH, ORGANIZATIONS EMPHASIZE MOVING BEYOND AWARENESS TO PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE, CELEBRATE NEURODIVERSITY, AND ADVOCATE FOR RESOURCES, WITH APRIL 2nd MARKED AS WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY; AND
- WHEREAS,** AUTISM IS A COMPLEX BRAIN DISORDER THAT OFTEN INHIBITS A PERSON'S ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE, RESPOND TO SURROUNDINGS, AND FORM RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS; AND
- WHEREAS,** ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO), APPROXIMATELY 1 IN 127 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE — OR ABOUT 61.8 MILLION PEOPLE — HAVE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD), BASED ON GLOBAL DATA FROM 2021; AND
- WHEREAS,** ASD IS A GROUP OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES THAT CAUSES CHALLENGES IN MANY AREAS OF ONE'S LIFE. SOME OF THE PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDE SOCIAL, COMMUNICATION, AND BEHAVIOR. CHILDREN WITH ASD MAY BE NON-VERBAL OR MAY HAVE RESTRICTED OR REPETITIVE BEHAVIORS; AND
- WHEREAS,** ASD AFFECTS PEOPLE OF ALL RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCE OF AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH TAKES PLACE EACH APRIL, HIGHLIGHTED BY WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY (WAAD) ON APRIL 2nd. WAAD WAS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN 2007 TO SHINE A BRIGHT LIGHT ON AUTISM AS A GROWING GLOBAL HEALTH PRIORITY. WAAD ACTIVITIES INCREASE WORLDWIDE UNDERSTANDING OF AUTISM AND EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND EARLY INTERVENTION. ADDITIONALLY, WAAD CELEBRATES THE UNIQUE TALENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM AROUND THE WORLD, NOW
- THEREFORE,** JOSH LEVY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, AND THE HOLLYWOOD CITY COMMISSION, HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL AS:

**NATIONAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH
IN THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA.**

SIGNED THIS 25th DAY OF
MARCH 2026, AT
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

MAYOR JOSH LEVY
VICE MAYOR TRACI L. CALLARI
COMMISSIONER CARYL S. SHUHAM
COMMISSIONER PETER D. HERNANDEZ
COMMISSIONER ADAM GRUBER
COMMISSIONER KEVIN BIEDERMAN
COMMISSIONER IDELMA QUINTANA