

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0447

A Proclamation Recognizing April as Autism Acceptance Month

WHEREAS, 1 in 36 children in the United States are diagnosed with Autism spectrum disorder (ASD), who are able to achieve independence and live purposeful lives when afforded the support system and opportunities that each and everyone deserves; and

WHEREAS, many individuals and families living with Autism know, acceptance is often one of the biggest barriers to finding and developing a strong support system. The Autism Society of Colorado understands the importance of fostering acceptance to lead to improved supports and to achieve equity in education, employment, housing, health care, and comprehensive long-term services and supports; and

WHEREAS, many people on the autism spectrum, especially women, go undiagnosed until later in life, and considerable effort is invested in improving our ability to diagnose ASD earlier and better serve individuals on the spectrum; and

WHEREAS, we will provide education and understanding, to promote acceptance, inspire inclusion and create systems-wide change to achieve full participation within society; and

WHEREAS, we will continue to prioritize passing and implementing policies that break down barriers for people with Autism to succeed in their chosen communities; which means, good jobs and more opportunities for employment, affordable, accessible, and integrated housing; accessible and affordable transportation; inclusive voting processes; and any needed long term services and supports, including those with significant support needs; and

WHEREAS, we will honor self-advocates, family caregivers, professionals, and all who work every day to create more opportunities for those with Autism; and

WHEREAS, we will come together to spread awareness, foster acceptance, and empower everyone in the Autism Community with the resources needed to live fully; and

WHEREAS, those who love people with ASD often see these individuals and the way their brains work as a special gift that enriches our community and lives; and

WHEREAS, there is no one box that defines people with ASD. They may be leaders, changemakers, artists, and inventors, and research teaches us to better support people with ASD in reaching their full potential; and

WHEREAS, we will create a world where everyone in the Autism community feels accepted and connected to the support they need when they need it; and

WHEREAS, we will celebrate the infinite ways those with Autism contribute to their families and communities in Colorado.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. The City Council of Denver recognizes April 2024 as Autism Acceptance Month to help create a more accepting society of individuals with Autism for being who they are.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Autism Society of Colorado.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 1, 2024

PRESIDENT

