

## PROCLAMATION

### DESIGNATING April 2021 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH & April 2, 2021 AS WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY IN THE CITY OF IMPERIAL

WHEREAS, Autism is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the human brain, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS, symptoms and characteristics may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, as well as nonverbal communication; and

WHEREAS, the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a reality that affects millions of families every day, and more children are being diagnosed, resulting in rates as high as one in fifty-four children nationally with four times greater prevalence among boys than girls according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the City of Imperial recognizes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and other individuals with Autism, including the disruption of healthy patterns of daily life that support and advance cognitive development; and

WHEREAS, while our nation has made progress in supporting those with ASD we are only beginning to understand the factors behind the challenges they face and the effort to address Autism continues; doctors, therapists, and educators can help individuals with Autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early, accurate diagnosis, appropriate education intervention, and therapy that are vital to future growth and development; and

WHEREAS, in April we recognize those with Autism achieving and breaking down barriers and recommit to helping those on the Autism Spectrum reach their full potential at all times; and

WHEREAS, the City of Imperial, California proudly supports the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the Autism Spectrum Disorder, celebrating the work of advocates, professionals and family members, and all who work to build a brighter tomorrow alongside those with Autism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Karin Eugenio, Mayor of the City of Imperial hereby proclaim April 2021 as Autism Awareness Month and April 2, 2021 as World Autism Awareness Day in the City of Imperial, to raise public awareness, acceptance and inclusion of those with Autism and the myriad of issues surrounding the disorder, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with Autism and their families.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Imperial to be affixed on this 17th day of March 2021.

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Karin Eugenio, Mayor