

Proclamation

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) represents a broad group of disorders that vary widely from mild to severe, and is characterized by difficulty with social interaction, communication, severely limited interests and repetitive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, once thought to be a relatively rare disorder that affected only 1 in 10,000 people more and more health professionals have been diagnosing children on the autism spectrum; and

WHEREAS, last December the Centers for Disease Control's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Office announced that 1 in 44 children are diagnosed with Autism and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention studies have also indicated that New Jersey has among the highest autism prevalence rates in the country; and

WHEREAS, a variety of public and private organizations and agencies strive to provide quality care, support, or services to children and adults with ASD to enable them to live as independently as possible and to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, today and every day, we honor autistic people and celebrate the meaningful and measurable ways they contribute to our Nation, our State, and our community, and we applaud the millions of educators, advocates, family members, caregivers, and others who support them; and

WHEREAS, this April, we recognize the multitude of experiences within the Autism community to highlight the critical need for acceptance, inclusion and connections to support people with Autism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Keith S. Balla, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, along with Member of the Council do hereby proclaim to acknowledge and help raise awareness of **NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** and call upon all Watchung residents to learn more about autism and become educated and informed about programs, services, and opportunities to support individuals with autism.

Dated: APRIL 7, 2022


Keith S. Balla, Mayor