

PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IMPERIAL DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020, AS "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH" AND APRIL 2, 2020 AS "WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY"

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 of autism 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, more children are being diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum resulting in rates as high as one (1) in fifty four (54) children nationally, with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) being four (4) times as prevalent among boys as among girls, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); and

WHEREAS, autism is a reality that affects millions of families every day and 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

WHEREAS, the effort to address autism continues, doctors, therapists, and educators can help persons with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early, accurate diagnosis and the resulting 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; and

WHEREAS, the City of Imperial 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 PROCLAIMED, that the City Council of the City of Imperial hereby proclaims April 2020 as "Autism Awareness Month" and April 2, 2020 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 15th day of April 2020.

Darrell Pechtl, Mayor