

RESOLUTION NO. 190193

Declaring the month of April 2019 to be Autism Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Autism is a broad spectrum of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behavior, speech and nonverbal communication; and

WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States with the Centers for Disease Control reporting in 2018 that Autism was diagnosed in about one in fifty-nine births and also that its rate of diagnosis is four times more likely in boys; and

WHEREAS, Autism shows no discrimination to whom it affects with people of all races, religions, gender, and socioeconomic status having the condition. By showing support and solidarity to those affected by Autism, our city can be a place of inclusion and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 80% of adults with Autism are unemployed due to a shortage of vocational training, inadequate support of job placement and pervasive discrimination. Due to this, Autism Awareness Month strives to promote awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all and that by wearing blue, support can be shown to those who are affected by Autism and their families; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City has numerous companies whose sole purpose is to support and help those with Autism succeed which include Autism Society Heartland, Autism Speaks, Easterseals, Sherwood Center and Thrive Autism Solutions Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2019, the City Council supports those whose lives' have been touched by autism and, in addition, we commend those who dedicate themselves to awareness, research, and care for those with Autism; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby declare the month of April 2019 to be "Autism Awareness Month" in Kansas City, Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and a copy hereof be presented to the Autism Society Heartland, Autism Speaks, Easterseals, Sherwood Center and Thrive Autism Solutions with the Mayor and Council encouraging all citizens of Kansas City to participate in Autism Awareness Month and to increase the awareness of Autism by supporting those affected by Autism and to continue educating themselves about Autism.

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