



PROCLAMATION

Recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month

- Whereas, April is Autism Awareness month, when organizations devoted to the millions of Americans living with autism spectrum disorder ("ASD") seek to bring awareness to autism; and*
- Whereas, autism is defined as a developmental disorder that can impair social, communication, and behavioral skills; it is a spectrum disorder that ranges in severity from person to person; and*
- Whereas, more than 1.5 million people have the condition in the United States; in California the Department of Developmental Services reports that diagnoses have risen from 3,262 in 1989 to over 80,000 today, with the number of individuals suffering from substantially disabling autism rising by 28 fold (2015 DDS data); and*
- Whereas, each year in the Bay Area, hundreds of people with substantially disabling ASD "age out" of the school system, and need to locate new day or supported employment programs; and*
- Whereas, the City of Burlingame wishes to acknowledge the hard work that families, friends, medical professionals, and caregivers provide to Americans with ASD, enabling them to live with dignity and safety, and to pursue their dreams; and*
- Whereas, we wish to encourage everyone in our City – including children, teachers, co-workers and all adults – to be respectful to those with ASD and to intervene if unfair, mean-spirited or unethical behavior towards them is observed; and*
- Whereas, we salute the work of San Mateo County health officials and organizations, such as Community Gatepath, who work to give young people and adults with ASD meaningful life experiences and opportunities for self-actualization; and*
- Whereas, we reaffirm our commitment to work together to ensure that every member of our society is afforded equal opportunities to reach their full potential; and*
- Now therefore I, Donna Colson, Mayor of the City of Burlingame in the State of California, hereby recognize April 2019 as Autism Awareness Month and urge all Burlingame residents to learn more about the signs of autism to improve early diagnosis, understand the challenges faced by individuals with autism, and find ways to support them, their families and caregivers.*

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Burlingame to be affixed this, the 15th day of April, 2019.

Donna Colson, Mayor