

# COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

## PROCLAMATION

Autism Acceptance Month: April 2026

In Columbia Heights, we strive to be a city where everyone belongs – where people of all abilities are recognized, supported, and included. During Autism Acceptance Month, we deepen our commitment to embracing neurodiversity and celebrating the contributions of our neighbors on the autism spectrum.

One in 34 Minnesotans is diagnosed with autism. As understanding and awareness have grown, so too has the recognition that autism is a spectrum, and support must reflect that. Some individuals may need lifelong, 24/7 care, while others require accommodations to thrive in schools, workplaces, and community spaces.

Every person with autism deserves access to the resources, dignity, and belonging that allow them to live fully.

Autistic individuals enrich our community through their perspectives, talents, and lived experiences. We honor the diverse and intersectional identities within the autism community and the vibrant culture that has emerged from it.

True acceptance means moving beyond awareness. It means ensuring our city's policies, services, schools, and businesses reflect our values of inclusion and accessibility. It means recognizing that there's still work to be done, especially when creating systems that are welcoming to all neurotypes.

This April, Columbia Heights proudly honors Autism Acceptance Month and World Autism Day on April 2. Together, we celebrate the beauty of neurodiversity and reaffirm our responsibility to build a community where everyone feels seen, respected, and valued.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor of Columbia Heights, do hereby declare the month of April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month.

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Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor  
April 13, 2026