

Proclamation



WHEREAS, April is designated as Autism Awareness Month and Helping Adults with Autism Perform and Excel (HAAPE) is a locally-based nonprofit working to provide meaningful and sustainable employment for the 80-90% of people on the Autism Spectrum who are unemployed or underemployed; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that over 1,000 families in Cooper City include at least one individual diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); and

WHEREAS, HAAPE is an all-volunteer 501 C 3 nonprofit foundation that creates, funds and sustains education and training programs that lead to employment for adults diagnosed with ASD; and

WHEREAS, HAAPE has worked on a unique program with the Broward Public School System ESE Organization to provide training opportunities leading to employment for autistic students and their parents; and

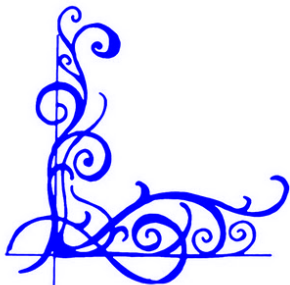
WHEREAS, HAAPE fills a void in the community by providing access to a significantly under-utilized pool of talent that is full of creative, energetic, extremely loyal adults with unique skills sets vital to any business; and

WHEREAS, HAAPE has estimated that if 5% of the autistic individuals in Cooper City took advantage of HAAPE's training programs and were subsequently employed, the people of Cooper City would save over \$2.5 million per year in ASD-related expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Ross, Mayor of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, and the City Commission, do hereby designate April 2023 as

AUTISM APPRECIATION MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, to be affixed on this 25th day of April, 2023.



GREG ROSS
Mayor, City of Cooper City

