



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Autism Acceptance Month is recognized annually in April to promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals on the autism spectrum; and

WHEREAS, today, 1 in 36 children (or 2.8 percent of the population) have been identified as autistic and overlooked populations including women and people of color, are being identified in increasing numbers. The needs of autistic people vary from low resource to high resource, understanding the ways we can support the autistic community promotes their inclusion, acceptance, well-being, and success; and

WHEREAS, autism is a neurological variation that enriches our community with diverse perspectives, talents, and experiences and autistic people have made enormous economic, social, and cultural contributions to our society; and

WHEREAS, embracing autism acceptance fosters a culture of empathy, compassion, and respect for individuals of all abilities. Every individual, regardless of neurodiversity, deserves equal opportunities, support, and recognition of their inherent worth and potential; and

WHEREAS, by embracing the principles of autism acceptance, we create a more inclusive and welcoming society where all individuals can thrive and contribute meaningfully. Through education, advocacy, and empowerment, we can dismantle barriers and create a more accessible and inclusive environment for autistic individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, promoting autism acceptance is an ongoing commitment that requires collective effort and collaboration from all members of our community and partnership with the City's Human Relations Commission and Disability Advisory Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeni Arndt, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim April 2024, as

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

and I call upon all residents, businesses, schools, and organizations to join us in celebrating the unique talents and contributions of individuals on the autism spectrum. Let us pledge to foster a community where diversity is celebrated, inclusion is championed, and acceptance is unconditional.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 2nd day of April, 2024.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Assistant City Clerk