



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6438  
April 2, 2024  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6438: Autism Acceptance Month, Proclamation No. 324	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Proclaim April 2024 as Autism Acceptance Month in the City of Mercer Island.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Council
<b>STAFF:</b>	Salim Nice, Mayor Andrea Larson, City Clerk
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proclamation No. 324
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This agenda bill is to proclaim April as Autism Acceptance Month to recognize all individuals around the world who live on the Autism spectrum and to celebrate the numerous ways autistic individuals enhance the quality of our communities and enrich our world.

**BACKGROUND**

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex, lifelong disability that typically manifests itself during early childhood. It is one of the fastest growing developmental disabilities in the world affecting approximately one in 44 children in the U.S. It is characterized by difficulties with social, emotional, and communication skills. People with ASD have a different way of learning and reacting to stimuli. ASD occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, and it is four times more prevalent in boys than in girls.

There is currently no cure for ASD, however early intervention treatment can have a positive impact on childhood development. Treatment plans can include therapies and counseling that meet the specific needs of the individual. Research continues into better understanding the factors that lead to ASD and the associated treatment options.

## **ISSUE/DISCUSSION**

As many individuals and families living with autism know, acceptance is often one of the biggest barriers to finding and developing a strong support system. The Mercer Island community understands the importance of fostering acceptance to lead to improved support and to achieve equity in education, employment, housing, health care, and comprehensive long-term services.

Proclaiming April 2024 as Autism Awareness Month is continuing Mercer Island's commitment to be a supportive community for those families dealing with the challenge of supporting family members who are on the autism spectrum, and to extending kindness and compassion to those who struggle with disabilities.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Proclaim April 2024 as Autism Acceptance Month in the City of Mercer Island.