



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5836
April 6, 2021
Consent Calendar

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5836: Autism Awareness Proclamation No. 266	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Mayor Wong proclaims April 2021 Autism Awareness Month in Mercer Island.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Ed Holmes, Police Chief
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 266
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

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 54 children in the U.S., including those within the Mercer Island community. 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.

PROCLAMATION AND AWARENESS

The City is proclaiming April 2021 as Autism Awareness Month in Mercer Island and is continuing its commitment to be a supportive community for those families dealing with the challenge of raising children who are on the Autism spectrum, and to extending kindness and compassion to those who struggle with

disabilities. In addition, members of the Mercer Island Police Department will wear Autism Awareness shoulder patches on their uniforms during the month of April to bring heightened awareness to this disability.

Retired Mercer Island Police Detective Peter Erickson spearheaded the Autism Awareness shoulder patch project for the Police Department. He donated all the patches to be worn by the MIPD and he is selling the remaining patches to the community. Patches can be purchased for a \$12 donation, with all the proceeds going to Autism Speaks, an organization dedicated to promoting solutions across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. To purchase a patch, contact Detective Erickson at pterickson@hotmail.com.



RECOMMENDATION

Mayor Wong proclaims April 2021 Autism Awareness Month in Mercer Island.