



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: April 1, 2024
TO: City Council Members
FROM: Turu VanderWiel, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Proclamation For Autism Awareness Month, April 2024

RECOMMENDATION

Requesting April 2024 be proclaimed as Autism Awareness Month.

DISCUSSION

April is Autism Awareness Month, an international event established to increase understanding, acceptance, and awareness of individuals affected with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). In April 1988, President Ronald Reagan issued the first presidential proclamation declaring April as National Autism Awareness Month, which opened opportunities for people with autism to live fuller and more productive lives. In recent years, Autism Awareness Month has become an international event, marking a larger effort to create brighter futures for children living with autism worldwide.

Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that impacts a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Everyone's Autism experience is different, and although the impacts of autism can be limiting in some ways, many affected individuals tap into high levels of intelligence and excel in mathematical, artistic, musical, spatial, and mechanical abilities.

April is a time to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and the family members, educators, and other paraprofessionals who teach and care for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and publically acknowledge, accept, and support our autism community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund.