

PROCLAMATION

**April 2018 as Autism Awareness Month in Garden Grove**

WHEREAS, Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder that begins early in childhood and lasts throughout a person's life, often characterized by a range of difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, About 1 percent of the world population has ASD; 3.5 million Americans live with the disorder; 1 in 68 children in the U.S. are identified as having ASD; and the highest autism rate in the state is in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, While there is no cure for autism, studies have shown that early and intensive treatment and intervention can help achieve improvements in basic skills such as learning, communication, social relationships, and self-care, to possibly transition into independent living and employment; and

WHEREAS, Lifelong specialized care and community support services are needed to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of those living with ASD, as well as their families who must manage the psychological and financial challenges of caring for an autistic family member; and

WHEREAS, OC Autism has prominently served the Garden Grove autistic community and maintained a strong partnership with the City of Garden Grove by promoting awareness, education, advocacy, and training through programs and services focused on improving and empowering the lives of children and adults with ADP; and

WHEREAS, On April 14, 2018, OC Autism and the City of Garden Grove will gather with the community in the Village Green, to celebrate April as Autism Awareness Month with entertainment, food, and festivities, and light the iconic Tower on the Green clock tower in blue, commemorating the global Light It Up Blue campaign for autism awareness.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Garden Grove does hereby proclaim April 2018 as Autism Awareness Month in Garden Grove, commends the remarkable services of OC Autism, and urges the community to share in efforts focused on creating a better quality-of-life for individuals living with autism.

April 10, 2018

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Steven R. Jones, *Mayor*

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Kris Beard  
*Mayor Pro Tem–District 1*

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John O'Neill  
*Council Member–District 2*

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Thu-Ha Nguyen  
*Council Member–District 3*

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Patrick Phat Bui  
*Council Member–District 4*

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Stephanie Klopfenstein  
*Council Member–District 5*

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Kim B. Nguyen  
*Council Member–District 6*