



Proclamation

Autism Acceptance Month April 2023

WHEREAS, Autism Acceptance Month, previously named Autism Awareness Month, in April aims to celebrate and promote acceptance for the condition that occurs in one in every 54 children as of 2020 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, autism, a complex developmental condition affecting the patient's ability to interact, communicate and progress, has not one but many subtypes. First held in the year 1972 by the Autism Society, Autism Acceptance Month emphasizes the need for public awareness to promote acceptance, celebrate the differences and be more inclusive towards autistic individuals around us; and

WHEREAS, the Autism Society was founded in 1965 by Bernard Rimland, and it is driven by the fact that autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the world. The Autism Society hosted one of its first nationwide efforts of an awareness campaign called National Autistic Children's Week in 1972, which subsequently evolved into the Autism Awareness Month earmarked in April; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Autism Awareness Month was renamed Autism Acceptance Month to foster acceptance and ignite changes. The organization caters to more than 600,000 people living under the "autism onslaught", using tools like community partnerships with organizations, digital and print resources, along with events and referrals to spark empathy and inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, with the autism diagnosis rate increasing fast, we take these 30 days of April, to celebrate the differences, learn more about and empower autistic individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Juan F. Rodriguez, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as Autism Awareness Month in the City of Tolleson, as a symbol of our commitment to creating a culture of disability awareness and inclusion for all members of our community. The City of Tolleson deeply understands the need to foster awareness and acceptance to ignite change and a healthier lifestyle through improved opportunities for people with autism.

Given under my hand in these free United States in the City of Tolleson, on the eleventh day of April, two thousand twenty-three, and to which I have caused the Seal of the City of Tolleson to be affixed and have made this proclamation public.



Juan F. Rodriguez

Juan F. Rodriguez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Crystal Zamora

Crystal Zamora, City Clerk