

CITY COUNCIL

The City of Orange Township, New Jersey

DATE November 1, 2022

NUMBER 418-2022

TITLE: **A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AUTISTIC CITIZENS IN THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP AND HONORING AUTISTICS SPEAKING DAY ON NOVEMBER 1, 2022. (Submitted by Councilmember-At-Large Adrienne Wooten and South Ward Councilmember Jamie Summers-Johnson)**

WHEREAS, Autistic Self Advocacy Network founded Autistics Speaking Day in 2010 as a way for autistic people to speak for themselves – to advocate, share their experiences and communicate openly about autism in a meaningful way; and

WHEREAS, a post by Corina Becker in response to an October autism awareness campaign sparked the idea for Autistics Speaking Day; and

WHEREAS, both the day and the organization were created by people with autism, illustrating the importance of self-advocacy by those who live with autism every day; and

WHEREAS, the observance is open to everyone with autism, both diagnosed and undiagnosed, their friends and families; and

WHEREAS, we all look at the world in our own unique ways; and

WHEREAS, however, people with autism experience the world differently from most of us; and

WHEREAS, they approach the world in often novel ways; and

WHEREAS, maybe one of the most important ways we all connect to and understand the world is through communication; and

WHEREAS, Autistics Speaking Day on November 1 encourages autistic people to tell their stories using whatever means works for them; and

WHEREAS, and everyone else is encouraged to listen, hear, read and comprehend their stories from their point of view; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, autistic people will flood the internet with their challenges and their celebrations, their interests and their dislikes; and

WHEREAS, they will speak about their rights and advocacy in many languages; and

WHEREAS, some may speak with art, others with poetry or memes; and

WHEREAS, they may also be speaking through podcasts; and

WHEREAS, their words and stories may be difficult to hear, but they will be speaking; and

WHEREAS, but, most importantly, they will be speaking about themselves for themselves. And if you want to understand, it will be a day for you to listen.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township do recognize and honor our Autistic citizens and honor November 1, 2022 as Autistic Speaking Day.

Approved: November 1, 2022

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President