

**CITY COUNCIL****The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE April 4, 2023NUMBER 161-2023**TITLE: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH.  
(Sponsored by Councilwoman Quantavia Hilbert)**

**WHEREAS**, Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain and impacts development in the areas of social interaction and communication skills; and

**WHEREAS**, both children and adults with Autism typically show difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions and leisure or play activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Autism is four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls, but can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors; and

**WHEREAS**, we should all keep in mind that Autism is a spectrum disorder and it affects each individual differently and at varying degrees, which is why early diagnosis is so crucial; and

**WHEREAS**, by learning the signs, we can benefit children by directing them to one of the many specialized intervention programs; and

**WHEREAS**, while there is no cure for Autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with Autism receive early and intensive treatment throughout their lives, they lead significantly improved lives; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 3.5 million Americans live with an autism spectrum disorder, and one out of every 59 American children born today will be diagnosed with Autism; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with Autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support services to ensure their health and safety and to support families' resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens Autism can present; and

**WHEREAS**, there are members of the Orange community that have Autism as well as local resources to serve these members of the community such as the non-profit All About the Spectrum; and

**WHEREAS**, April is designated as National Autism Awareness Month to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members, educators and other professionals who teach and care for individuals with autism.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Orange Township hereby recognizes April 2023 as National Autism Awareness Month in the City of Orange Township, and urge all employees and residents to participate in National Autism Awareness Month activities, such as All About the Spectrum's Second Annual Autism Walk on April 15, 2023, in order to become better educated about Autism and create a better community for individuals with Autism.

**Adopted: April 4, 2023**

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Joyce L. Lanier  
City Clerk

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Tency A. Eason  
Council President