



Resolution

WHEREAS, World Autism Acceptance Day is April 2nd and exists to celebrate the diverse perspectives, experiences, and contributions that those living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) bring to their communities; and

WHEREAS, ASD is a developmental condition that can affect an individual's language, behavior, and social interactions and manifests differently in the estimated more than 5.4 million American adults and 800,000 Texans who have ASD; and

WHEREAS, we must go beyond raising awareness of ASD and find ways to promote acceptance and celebration of people with ASD; and

WHEREAS, individuals with autism possess unique talents, abilities, and perspectives that enrich our communities and contribute to the diversity of our society; and

WHEREAS, organizations throughout Harris County work to provide support, education, and community for people with ASD and for families with loved ones who have ASD; these organizations include Family-to-Family Network, KNOWAutism, Katy Autism Support, Easter Seals of Greater Houston, University of Houston Clear Lake's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Autism Society of Texas, and others; and

WHEREAS, Harris County is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for individuals with ASD and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Harris Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDDs) provides educational, social, and health services to people with ASD and IDDs including through its Coffeehouse program, which helps secure employment and encourages community through fostering interpersonal communication skills, independence, and social skills; and

WHEREAS, Harris County Precinct 4 and Harris County Precinct 5 Constable Ted Heap have partnered to launch Precinct 4 All Abilities, a program to hire individuals with autism and other IDDs to work at three Precinct 4 community centers; and

WHEREAS, through education, advocacy, and community engagement, we can work together to create a more inclusive and accepting society where individuals with autism can thrive and reach their full potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Harris County Commissioners Court hereby recognizes April 2024 as

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

It is hereby **ORDERED** that this Resolution be included in the minutes of Commissioners Court this 23rd day of April 2024.

Lina Hidalgo, County Judge

Rodney Ellis
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Adrian Garcia
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Tom S. Ramsey, P.E.
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Lesley Briones
Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

Teneshia Hudspeth, County Clerk
Harris County, TEXAS