

WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month is observed annually in April, and intended to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior; and

WHEREAS, Autism is one of the fastest growing developmental disabilities in the world affecting over 1 million Americans including persons within our community; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that one in 59 school aged children have been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost of such disabilities grows into the billions of dollars; yet service options lag far behind the needs of those who are most affected; and

WHEREAS, Delray Beach supports an increased awareness of this challenging disability; and

WHEREAS, Delray Beach is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHELLY PETROLIA, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim April as:

“AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH”

in the City of Delray Beach, Florida, and urge all citizens, schools, businesses and community organizations to join with me in recognizing the value and the need for programs that encompass our entire community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 6th day of April 2021.

**SHELLY PETROLIA
MAYOR**