

**RESOLUTION NO. 51 2025**

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2025 AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH,  
AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

**BY: COUNCILWOMAN TABATHA TAYLOR**

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that affects social interactions, communication, and behavior, often leading to repetitive and restricted patterns of behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that approximately 1 in 36 children are identified with ASD, with boys being diagnosed 4.2 times more often than girls; and

**WHEREAS**, ASD encompasses a wide range of developmental differences and degrees of impairment, making every individual's experience with autism unique. Many individuals with autism have exceptional skills such as heightened memory, concentration, and creativity, often excelling in areas like mathematics, science, and the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, World Autism Day is observed annually on April 2, 2025, to increase awareness and to support family members, educators and other professionals who teach and care for individuals with autism; and

**WHEREAS**, the observance of Autism Acceptance Month and World Autism Day provides a valuable opportunity to support and empower individuals with autism, while fostering a more inclusive and understanding society; and

**WHEREAS**, while we honor individuals with autism throughout the month of April, it is important to recognize that autism is a lifelong condition with varying levels of intensity. Continued support for research into treatment and therapies that improve the quality of life for those with autism is essential; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 30, "**The Barkowski Bridge of Lights**" sponsored by Councilwoman Taylor and Holy Angels, will be lit up in the color "**BLUE**" in recognition of World Autism Day and to honor families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage citizens and businesses in the City of Shreveport to show their support by wearing blue and lighting their homes and/or establishments with the color "**BLUE**" on this day.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Shreveport in due regular and legal session convened that the Shreveport City Council recognizes April 2025 as Autism Acceptance Month.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or application, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

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**City Attorney's Office**