

RESOLUTION NO. 44 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2023 AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH IN THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

BY: COUNCILWOMAN TABATHA TAYLOR

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder characterized by behavioral and communicational affections that impact a person's ability to navigate social interactions and also causes repetitive and restricted behavior; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 in 54 children have been identified with ASD according to estimates from CDC's Autism and Development Disabilities Monitoring Network; and

WHEREAS, ASD is significantly more common among boys than girls, but can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic group. The condition typically starts during childhood and continues into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, the first historical appearance of the word "Autism" was made in 1911 by psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler, who used the term to describe a specific cluster of symptoms that were considered simple symptoms of schizophrenia as an extreme social withdrawal; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, when pediatric psychiatrist Dr. Leo Kanner characterized Autism as a social and emotional disorder in his article "Autistic Disturbances of Affective Contact", and in 1944 Hans Asperger published his "Autism Psychopathology Article" where he described autism as a disorder of normal intelligence children who have difficulties with social and communication skills. These articles were an important contribution to the studies that helped to classify Autism as a disorder separate from schizophrenia in 1980; and

WHEREAS, with the continuous investigation and research on autism, World Autism Awareness Day was set to April 2 of each year by the "United Nations General Assembly" in "Resolution 62/139" and adopted on December 18 of 2007, to encourage member states to take action in raising awareness about people with autism spectrum disorder and support the research finding new ways to improve wellness and inclusion. In 2021, Autism Awareness Month was renamed Autism Acceptance Month to foster acceptance and ignite change; and

WHEREAS, World Autism Acceptance Day is observed on April 2, 2023, to increase awareness and to support family members, educators and other professionals who teach and care for individuals with autism. We encourage citizens and businesses in the City of Shreveport to support this day with other cities around the nation by wearing and lighting their establishments and/or home (if applicable), with the color "BLUE" in support of the Autism Community.

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 recognize April 2023, as Autism Acceptance Month in the City of Shreveport.

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:

City Attorney's Office