

PROCLAMATION

***WHEREAS**, autism is a severely incapacitating, lifelong development disability, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and*

***WHEREAS**, autism is the result of a neurological disorder affecting the functioning of the brain; and*

***WHEREAS**, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention are vital to the future growth and development of persons with autism; and*

***WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) now impact one out of every 150 children in the United States and autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability; and*

***WHEREAS**, the United Nations has designated April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day; and*

***WHEREAS**, the annual observance of the Autism Awareness Month advocates for the rights, human treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism, while educating families, professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the Month of April to be:*

"AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH"

throughout the City and encourages all Alexandrians to work together to ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 25th day of March 2008.*

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk