

Proclamation

Whereas, autism is a developmental disability that affects how people think, communicate, and experience the world around them; and

Whereas, anyone can be born with autism, regardless of race, gender, or age; and

Whereas, in April of 2011, autistic people moved beyond “awareness” when Paula Durbin Westby organized the first Autism Acceptance Month, created by autistic people to change the conversation around autism, shifting from stigmatizing to acceptance; and

Whereas, acceptance is an action that goes beyond changing how we talk about autism. We must also change how we think about autism, and how we work with autistic people to make community more accessible for them; and

Whereas, autism acceptance means centering the perspectives and needs of all autistic people, including those with intellectual disabilities, who are non-speaking, and those with the highest support needs; and

Whereas, autism acceptance also means recognizing that ableism and racism interact in our society, and recognizing that police violence threatens the lives of Black autistic people. Autism acceptance means following the leadership of autistic people of color, and making anti-racism a core part of our work; and

Whereas, autism acceptance emphasizes that autistic people belong and deserve welcoming communities, inclusive schools and workplaces, and equal opportunities; and

Whereas, as Alameda actively strives to be a city where *Everyone Belongs*, Autism Acceptance Month provides an opportunity to make our community accessible to and accepting of autistic people.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 as

Autism Acceptance Month

in the City of Alameda and encourage all residents, businesses, civic groups, government agencies, and other organizations to learn more about autism, spread awareness, promote acceptance, and ignite change.



Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor

