

By Councilwoman Melissa Sampey

A Resolution proclaiming April to be *Autism Awareness Month* and April 2 to be *World Autism Awareness Day*; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million (3,000,000) people, is an urgent public health crisis that demands a national response; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the growing needs of the worldwide autistic community and to raise awareness about autism spectrum disorders and the need to provide services to individuals and families who are affected, the United Nations has sanctioned April 2nd as *World Autism Awareness Day*; and

WHEREAS, Autism Speaks, an organization dedicated to enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow, promotes the awareness of autism worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in light of the growing impact of autism spectrum disorders and the need for greater awareness, Autism Speaks holds its "Light It Up Blue!" campaign on *World Autism Awareness Day*, designed to increase awareness about autism by asking participating organizations to turn their lights blue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Westland is honored to take part in the annual observance of *Autism Awareness Month* and *World Autism Awareness Day* in the hopes that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Westland City Council that:

SECTION 1. This City Council hereby proclaims the month of April to be *Autism Awareness Month* in the City of Westland and further proclaims April 2 to be *World Autism Day*, to raise public awareness of autism and the myriad of issues surrounding autism, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.

SECTION 2. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the City Attorney, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Westland.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Westland, such emergency being the need to recognize *Autism Awareness Month* and

RESOLUTION NO.

World Autism Day on a timely basis. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of four (4) or more members elected to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.



JIM HART
President, Westland City Council



RICHARD LeBLANC
City Clerk, City of Westland

PASSED: