

PROCLAMATION
“Autism Awareness Month”

WHEREAS, according to the Nation Autism Society, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, communication and behavioral skills of those affected by it; and,

WHEREAS, autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees; and

WHEREAS, autism knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries; and

WHEREAS, ten years ago, autism’s estimated prevalence was 1 in 166, and today it is 1 in 68 – an increase of more than 100% in one decade; and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive early and intensive treatment throughout their lives, they lead significantly improved lives, and,

WHEREAS, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support services to ensure their health and safety, and to support the resiliency of their families as they manage the psychological and financial burdens that autism can present; and

WHEREAS, high-quality early intervention can change underlying brain development and activity, and is also cost effective as it reduces the need for educational and behavioral support in grade school and beyond.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim **the month of April** as **“Autism Awareness Month”** in the Town of Carrboro in order to promote autism awareness, autism acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year.

This the 12th day of April 2016

Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor