

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-

***RELATIVE TO PROCLAIMING APRIL 2022 AS
“AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH” IN THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS,
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH***

BY:

Council Chairman John Spanbauer
Council Member Traci Bax
Council Member Donta Myles
Council Member Kenny Tompkins
Council Member David Zajac
Mayor Robert M. Restaino

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, the month of April has been dedicated as “National Autism Awareness Month”, elevating awareness and education about autism and issues within the autism community; and

WHEREAS, autism is a disease with significant unmet patient needs and is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others; and

WHEREAS, one in 68 children in the United States is affected by autism, Asperger's or Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (including one in 54 boys) , as estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS, there is no known single cause of autism, a spectrum disorder, meaning there can be great variation in the way it affects people; each child on the autism spectrum possesses unique abilities, symptoms and challenges; and

Bax _____ Myles _____ Tompkins _____ Zajac _____ Spanbauer _____

WHEREAS, many children on the spectrum often share common core symptoms which include impaired social interactions, such as reluctance to join group activities at school, not being aware of the needs of others, impaired communication and other impairments; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state and national levels, as greater awareness will lead to greater acceptance and improved opportunities for people with autism; and

WHEREAS, while World Autism Awareness Day was celebrated on April 2, 2022, the City of Niagara Falls, NY recognizes the need to further recognize both individuals with Autism and their families and encourages all residents to work together to build an inclusive community where autistic individuals are embraced and supported to achieve the highest quality of life possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Niagara Falls City Council and Mayor Robert M. Restaino do hereby adopt this resolution to designate and proclaim April 2022, as “Autism Awareness Month” in the City of Niagara Falls, in conjunction with National Autism Awareness Month.