



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: People with autism contribute to the neurodiversity of the world, enhancing our communities, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods and places of worship. Autism is a unique way of experiencing the world that can bring a different perspective and way of thinking that enriches our understanding of the world; and

Whereas: According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that worldwide about one in 100 children is diagnosed with autism. The prevalence of children with autism is likely much higher due to persistent and significant barriers to resources, including diagnosis, especially for members of marginalized communities; and

Whereas: Studies estimate 50-75% of the identified 5.6 million adults with autism in the U.S. are unemployed or underemployed; and

Whereas: People with autism, especially those who are also people of color or LGBTQ+, are still excluded from full access to employment, housing, education, and medical care, and they are also frequently excluded from formulating research and policy that affects them; and

Whereas: Early identification of autism and equitable support in every stage of life allows people with autism to live independently, fully participate in their communities, and live fulfilling lives of dignity and opportunity; and

Whereas: People with autism are friends, family members, children, partners, co-workers, customers, and neighbors, and the voice and lived experience of people with autism should be centered in any discussions or decisions that impact them; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue recognizes the rights of people with autism and the ways they enrich our communities with their lived experience. The city supports efforts to promote acceptance of individuals with autism, provide information and resources and foster inclusive practices.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, mayor of the city of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as:

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

in Bellevue and encourage community members to celebrate people with autism and recognize their valuable contributions to our world.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue