



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) contribute to the neurodiversity of the world, creating differences in the way we interact. ASDs are complex brain development differences that can often be characterized by unique patterns of behavior and varying levels of social interaction and communication; and
- Whereas:** According to studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in 44 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, which occur in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups; and
- Whereas:** ASDs have no single known cause, though early intervention can provide more supports for the growth, learning and quality of life for those with autism; and
- Whereas:** Organizations supporting the growth and development of people with autism may be underfunded and rely on grants and financial support from the community. Managing autism through childhood costs about \$60,000 per year and the annual economic cost of autism in the U.S. is expected to reach \$461 billion by 2025; and
- Whereas:** The City of Bellevue supports the efforts of organizations that fund and promote awareness of autism spectrum disorders to improve the lives of people with autism and their loved ones, provide community information and resources, promote acceptance, and foster inclusive practices welcoming to those with ASDs; and
- Whereas:** The City of Bellevue recognizes how people with autism enrich our communities with unique perspectives and lived experience. Through the Diversity Advantage Initiative, Bellevue is committed to inclusion, equal access and opportunity, including supported employment programs and human services funding, to embrace the contributions of residents with ASDs in our schools, government, workforce, and community.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, mayor of the city of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim **April 2022 as:**

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

in Bellevue and encourage Bellevue community members to find out more about autism spectrum disorders, explore the resources available and join the city in fostering inclusion, equity and access for ASD individuals and families.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue