

PROCLAMATION

National Autism Acceptance Month

WHEREAS, President Reagan issued the first presidential proclamation for National Autism Awareness Month. The paradigm shifted in 2021 when Autism Awareness Month became Autism **Acceptance** Month, a powerful reframing putting the emphasis on creating an inclusive society that celebrates autistic people all year long; and

WHEREAS, this evolution moved beyond awareness to dismantling stigmas, fostering respect, and enabling autistic people to fully participate in society as their authentic selves; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, it is estimated that 2.7% of children have autism, along with 2.2% of adults, and experiences with the disorder vary widely from person to person; and

WHEREAS, individuals with autism can face very difficult barriers to employment opportunities, and often have their intelligence and abilities misunderstood or overlooked; and

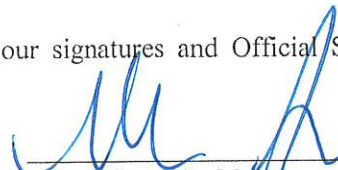
WHEREAS, it is crucial to champion awareness of the impacts of autism and the acceptance of individuals with autism as they navigate life with increased challenges in many aspects of development and socialization; and

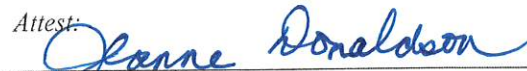
WHEREAS, Unite To Live With Autism (U2LWA) is an organization that provides resources, support, and positive experiences to individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. U2LWA believes that those on the autism spectrum should be celebrated for their uniqueness and special gifts, and they strive for positivity and acceptance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Redlands does hereby proclaim the Month of April, 2026 to be *Autism Acceptance Month* in the City of Redlands and we invite all residents to celebrate the individuals with autism in our city who are so full of joy, love, and hope.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we hereunto affix our signatures and Official Seal of the City of Redlands on this 7th day of April, 2026.




Mario Saucedo, Mayor

Attest:

Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk