

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in April each year, “Autism Awareness Month” is recognized to bring a focus on the public health crisis of autism and improve the future for everyone who struggles with autism spectrum disorder; April 2, 2014 is “World Autism Awareness Day,” to also raise the awareness of autism in our community; and

WHEREAS, ABOARD’s Autism Connection of PA provides autism support across Pennsylvania to parents and those with autism, including autism support groups, autism resources, treatments, and autism conferences and events; it also provides information on the signs and symptoms of autism, getting an autism diagnosis, and applying for medical assistance and health insurance; and

WHEREAS, Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 by Bob & Suzanne Wright, grandparents of a child with autism; the group’s mission is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders and assist with funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; it also works to raise public awareness about autism, and bring hope to all who deal with the hardships of the disorder; and

WHEREAS, autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that inhibits a person’s ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by behavioral challenges; autism spectrum disorders are diagnosed in 1 in 189 girls and 1 in 42 boys in the United States; and

WHEREAS, while the cause and cure of autism remains unknown, bringing awareness, advocacy, and funds to aid the cause increases the hope that one day a cure will exist; on April 2, 2014, buildings, stadiums, fountains, and many other properties and landmarks will “Light It Up Blue” in support of autism awareness; and

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is thankful for Autism Speaks and ABOARD for their dedicated service to the citizens of our community and to all who are affected and struggle with autism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 2014 as “Autism Awareness Month” in Allegheny County and in support of those affected by autism the Allegheny County Courthouse will be lit in blue light throughout the month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 2nd day of April, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald

Rich Fitzgerald