

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Autism Awareness Month is observed annually in April, and April 2 is recognized as World Autism Day; celebrating 15 years of progress Autism Speaks is making 2020 its “Year of Kindness,” with the commitment to inspire one million acts of kindness, big and small; and*

WHEREAS, *thousands of individuals and organizations participate in autism-related events and educational activities throughout April to increase understanding and acceptance and to foster worldwide support for those struggling with autism spectrum disorder; and*

WHEREAS, *Autism refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication as well as by unique strengths; there is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness as well as early diagnosis, intervention, and access to services lead to significantly improved outcomes; and*

WHEREAS, *Autism is estimated to affect 1 in 59 children in the United States, including 1 in 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls; almost 5,000 people in Allegheny County, most of which are children, receive autism-related services; and*

WHEREAS, *Autism Speaks was founded in 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, who are grandparents of a child with autism; the Autism Speaks Pittsburgh Chapter fundraises and increases awareness through the Pittsburgh Autism Speaks Walk and through partnering with other organizations to host various kinds of events throughout the region; those efforts help fuel innovative*

research and create connections to critical lifelong supports and services for those with autism; and

***WHEREAS,** Autism Speaks provides hope to all those dealing with the hardships of the disorder, and Allegheny County is fortunate to have the organization in our community; we thank its board and staff for their incredible work and dedication in helping so many with this complex condition.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 2020 as “Autism Awareness Month” and April 2, 2020 as “World Autism Day” in Allegheny County. To encourage our residents to learn more about the disorder and to support those affected by it, we are lighting the Courthouse blue throughout the month of April.*

***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, 2020.*

Rich Fitzgerald

RICH FITZGERALD