



## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability; signs typically appear during early childhood and affects a person's ability to communicate, causes sensory issues and affects ability to interact with others. ASD affects every race, gender, creed, and socio-economic background, and has no outward visual signs. There is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness and early diagnosis/intervention and access to appropriate services/supports leads to significantly improved outcomes; and

WHEREAS: autism is the leading developmental disability in the United States which means the prevalence of autism diagnosis had risen to 1 in every 68 births in the United States; and

WHEREAS: individuals and families affected by autism need early identification and access to effective treatments. Early diagnosis of autism can reduce lifetime care costs by two-thirds, as it allows parents, therapists and others to begin treatment sooner. Parents and caregivers need the community support for autism acceptance so that all children and adolescents can reach their fullest potential. The community can also work towards to ensure that every adult with autism has access to services and supports that maximize independence and secure the highest quality of life. Self-advocacy is also important to many people on the spectrum, as more people with autism are speaking out about their experiences, identities and the need for more autism acceptance; and

WHEREAS: each person with autism is unique, and should be treated as such; and

WHEREAS: every person with autism should have the same opportunities as any other person; and

WHEREAS: people with autism should have choices and control over their lives.


NOW, THEREFORE: I, Duke A Bennett, Mayor of the City of Terre Haute, do hereby proclaim September 30, 2017, to be

### **Autism Acceptance Day**

so all individuals and families affected by autism feel accepted by all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Terre Haute to be affixed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.



  
Duke A Bennett, Mayor