

Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

Autism Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder among children in the United States. There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people. People with ASD may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from neurotypical people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged; and

WHEREAS, a diagnosis of ASD now includes several conditions that used to be diagnosed separately: autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger syndrome. These conditions are now all called autism spectrum disorder or ASD; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that approximately 1 in 31 children in the United States is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD); boys are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls; autism affects individuals of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds; minority groups are often diagnosed later and less frequently; and there is no single medical test to diagnose autism; and

WHEREAS, ASD can sometimes be detected at 18 months or younger. By age 2, a diagnosis by an experienced professional can be considered very reliable. However, many children do not receive a final diagnosis until they are much older. This delay means that children with ASD might not get the early help they need; and

WHEREAS, research shows that early intervention treatment services can improve a child's development. Early intervention services help children from birth to 3 years old learn important skills. Services can include therapies to help the child talk, walk, interact with others, communicate, and control behaviors, including physical aggression and self-injury behavior; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sunrise has specifically been involved in promoting Autism Awareness by sponsoring organizations and events that target services to this community as Autism Swims and the Autism Speaks Broward Walk; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Sunrise, as part of our continued effort to better serve our residents, the Police Department has incorporated an Autism Awareness program within "Project Lifesaver". Through this program, our hope is to expand our database and improve police responses with individuals that have Autism. Once enrolled, individuals will be issued a Sunrise Police Autism Awareness magnet and sticker that can be placed on cars, windows, and/or doors so to alert any responding officer that an individual with Autism may be present; and

WHEREAS, in honor of Autism Awareness Month the City of Sunrise Police Department wraps a patrol vehicle with vinyl decals with an Autism Awareness logo in order to make a difference for families in bringing attention to those living with Autism. The vehicle is meant to attract attention in order to promote autism acceptance and help the City of Sunrise connect with those on the Autism Spectrum in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Michael J. Ryan, Mayor of the City of Sunrise, Florida, together with the City Commissioners supports and encourages all residents and businesses to celebrate differences, and become more inclusive of individuals with Autism and now I do hereby proclaim the month of April 2026 as **Autism Awareness Month** in the City of Sunrise.



Witness My Hand and Official Seal of
The City of Sunrise, Florida

Michael J. Ryan, Mayor