

- WHEREAS, autism is a naturally occurring neurodevelopmental condition that is present from birth and affects the way individuals communicate, process information, and experience the world; and
- WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that autism affects approximately 1 in 36 children, with millions of autistic youth and adults in the United States, including thousands in Southwest Washington; and
- WHEREAS, autistic individuals thrive when provided with access to inclusive education, equitable support, meaningful opportunities, and full acceptance within society; and
- WHEREAS, through research, training, advocacy, support groups, and increased empowerment for autistic youth, adults, and families, Vancouver strives to be a welcoming and supportive community for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim the month of April as:

" Autism Acceptance Month"

in the City of Vancouver, and encourage all community members to embrace autism acceptance, promote inclusion, and celebrate the contributions of autistic individuals and their families.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 14th day of April 2025.

ANNE McENERNY-ØGLE, MAYOR