

**RESOLUTION**

**72(22)**

March 2, 2022

WHEREAS, National Autism Acceptance Month is sponsored by The Autism Society and represents an excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness, autism acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year; and

WHEREAS, the Autism Society of America, the nation’s oldest leading grassroots autism organization, is proud to celebrate Autism Acceptance Month with its “Celebrate Differences” campaign. Designed to build a better awareness of the signs, symptoms, and realities of autism, #CelebrateDifferences focuses on providing information and resources for communities to be more aware of autism, promote acceptance, and be more inclusive in everyday life; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong developmental disability, consisting of a broad group of disorders that vary widely from mild to severe, and is characterized by difficulty with social interactions, communication, severely limited interests, and repetitive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, the Autism Society recognizes that the prevalence of autism in the United States has risen from 1 in 125 children in 2010 to 1 in 59 in 2020 – recognizing this continued increase, the goal for AAM is to further increase awareness about autism signs, symptoms and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, signs of autism usually appear by age 2 or 3. Some associated development delays can appear even earlier, and often, it can be diagnosed as early as 18 months; and


WHEREAS, although a cure for Autism has not been found, persons with Autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential. Accurate, early diagnosis, and the resulting appropriate intervention, education, and support are vital to the highest quality of life for the individual; and

WHEREAS, advocacy organizations, such as POAC (Parents of Autistic Children) and Autism New Jersey have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to promote community inclusion, awareness, support and appropriate education of all persons with Autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism is a complex disability that requires increased research to one day find a cure and means of prevention along with greater recognition and understanding to ensure that all Americans with Autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ocean County Board of Health does hereby proclaim April 2022 AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH in Ocean County.

Name	Bacchione	Hill	Kubiel	Laureigh	Mancini	Scaturro	Singer	Mallon
Ayes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Abstain								
Nays								
Absent						✓		

  
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 Secretary/Treasurer