



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2018, people across the country and around the globe commemorated "World Autism Awareness Day", sanctioned by the United Nations in 2007, as a day of promise and a time to lend our hearts and minds to all of those who live with autism; and

WHEREAS, "Autism Awareness Month" is intended to shine a bright light on autism and autism spectrum disorder, the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States which affects an estimated 1 of 68 children, and share information regarding the importance of early detection and early intervention; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 11th annual campaign to raise awareness, understanding and support for those affected by autism and autism spectrum disorder – a group of complex disorders often characterized by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive disorders; and

WHEREAS, autism may not directly affect every family in Key West and the Keys, it directly touches the lives of many and brings out the community spirit of caring, compassion, and good deeds towards those in need. It is the hope of this focus that all will practice principles of inclusion for individuals with autism and other special needs. Among those principles are respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, nondiscrimination, and full effective participation in society. Such values take the view that inclusion is an attitude, an approach, and a mindset, which welcomes and facilitates participation by those with disabilities and special needs, and encourages accommodation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, District 5 City Commissioner Margaret Romero, along with the members of our commission do hereby proclaim April as

Autism Awareness Month

An observation thereof I encourage the residents of our city to join me in our continual effort aimed at inspiring compassion, empowerment and hope, for those living with autism along with their families and caretakers.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 3rd of April 2018

Margaret Romero