

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS SHARON DURKAN, LIZ BREADON, ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

**WHEREAS**, National Autism Acceptance Month is celebrated throughout the month of April to promote inclusion and acceptance for people on the autism spectrum; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Formerly known as Autism Awareness Month, which started in 1970, it was reframed as Autism Acceptance Month in 2021 to emphasize genuine inclusion—supporting and celebrating the diverse experiences of the autism community, rather than focusing solely on awareness; *and*

**WHEREAS**, This month provides an opportunity to recognize the talents and contributions of autistic individuals, and to affirm that autism is not just a diagnosis but also an identity, a community, and a lived experience; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Individuals with autism continue to face misunderstanding, discrimination, and barriers in education, employment, housing, and other aspects of community life, underscoring that there is still more work to do to be done; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Community organizations and programs in the City of Boston, including Autism Speaks, the Aspire Program at Mass General Brigham, STRIVE Boston, and the Common Room play a vital role in providing advocacy, support, and resources to help remove barriers faced by members of the autism community and to advance the inclusion and respect they deserve; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The City of Boston is committed to equity and inclusion, and to ensuring that every community has the resources it needs to thrive. The Boston City Council recognizes and celebrates the talents and contributions of the autism community and acknowledges the individuals who are an essential part of the fabric of our city—across fields such as government, medicine, the arts, and business, as well as in raising families and strengthening our communities; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED**: That the Boston City Council hereby recognizes April as Autism Acceptance Month, honors the contributions of individuals with autism, and affirms the City of Boston’s commitment to ensuring full inclusion and respect for this community.