

**2022 World Autism Awareness Day &
World Autism Month Proclamation**

WHEREAS autism spectrum disorder affects an estimated 1 in 44 U.S. children and 1 in 45 U.S. adults and is a complex condition that affects each person differently, resulting in unique strengths and challenges; and

WHEREAS autism can cause challenges with verbal and nonverbal communication, social interaction, and repetitive behaviors, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS autism is often accompanied by medical conditions that impact quality of life; and

WHEREAS a comprehensive, collaborative approach will help to advance research, providing a better understanding of the many forms of autism, strengthen advocacy efforts and ensure access to services and resources throughout the lifespan and across the spectrum; and

WHEREAS early diagnosis and intervention tailored to individual needs can have lifelong benefits, easing the transition to adulthood and fostering greater independence; and,

WHEREAS each person and family affected by autism should have access to reliable information and supports; and

WHEREAS autistic people should have opportunities to reach their full potential and the whole of society stands to benefit from this; and,

WHEREAS The Town of Longmeadow is honored to take part in the annual observance of World Autism Month and World Autism Awareness Day to address the diverse needs of individuals with autism and their families;

*NOW, THEREFORE, WE, The Longmeadow Select Board, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as **WORLD AUTISM MONTH** and April 2, 2022 as **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY** in Longmeadow to create a kinder, more inclusive world for people with autism spectrum disorder.*