

**TOWNSHIP of ROCKAWAY
PROCLAMATION**

Whereas, autism is a complex developmental disorder affecting the social, communication and behavioral skills of those affected by it, and

Whereas, as more health professionals become proficient in diagnosing autism, more children are being diagnosed on the autism spectrum, resulting in rates as high as 1 in 54 children nationally and 1 in 32 in New Jersey, and

Whereas, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive early and intensive treatment throughout their lives, they may lead significantly improved lives, and,

Whereas, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community-support services to ensure their health and safety to support families' resilience as they manage the psychological and financial challenges autism can present,

Whereas, Autism New Jersey is spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals and the general public about autism and its effects,

Now, Therefore, I, Michael Puzio, Mayor of the Township of Rockaway, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as AUTISM, AWARENESS, ACCEPTANCE, AND INCLUSION MONTH in the Township of Rockaway and urge all employees and residents to participate in our municipality's National Autism Awareness Month activities, in order to become better educated about autism spectrum disorder and create a better community for individuals with autism.

Michael Puzio

Mayor Michael Puzio
March 2021

