

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-1868**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HAINES CITY, FLORIDA RECOGNIZING AND DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION; PROVIDING FOR RECORDING IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, autism is a complex developmental condition that affects communication, behavior, and social interactions, impacting millions of individuals and their families worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, the prevalence of autism continues to rise, with research and awareness playing a vital role in ensuring early diagnosis and intervention, which can significantly improve the quality of life for those affected; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with autism contribute greatly to our community, bringing unique perspectives, talents, and strengths that enhance the social and economic fabric of our city; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Haines City is committed to promoting inclusion, acceptance, and understanding for individuals with autism and their families through community engagement, education, and support initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, Autism Awareness Month provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of individuals with autism, recognize the dedication of caregivers, educators, and advocates, and encourage continued efforts toward accessibility and acceptance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Haines City joins national and global efforts in fostering a supportive and inclusive environment that empowers individuals with autism to reach their full potential;

**WHEREAS**, “*Autism Awareness Month*” in the City of Haines City encourages all residents to learn more about autism, advocate for inclusion, and support individuals and families impacted by autism spectrum disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, recognition and designation of Autism Awareness Month are in the best interests of the City.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Commission of the City of Haines City as follows:

Section 1. Authorization. The City of Haines City hereby formally recognizes and designates April as Autism Awareness Month.

Section 2. Administrative Action. The City of Haines City staff is hereby directed to take all administrative actions necessary to recognize and designate April as Autism Awareness Month, and ancillary documents thereto.

Section 3. Recording. This Resolution shall be recorded in the Public Records of Polk County, Florida.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Resolution, or application hereof, is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court, such portion or application shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or application hereof.

Section 5. Conflicting Resolutions. That all resolutions made in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed.

Section 6. Effective Date. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED and APPROVED** in regular session of the City Commission of the City of Haines City, Florida, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Sharon Lauther, MMC, City Clerk

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Morris L. West, Mayor-Commissioner

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:**

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Fred Reilly, City Attorney