

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects the way a person communicates and relates to people in a meaningful way, and typically appears during the first three years of life. A child is diagnosed with autism every 20 minutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Autism is estimated to touch the lives of over 500,000 families throughout the United States, four times more prevalent in boys than girls, with rates appearing to have increased similarly around the world; and
- WHEREAS,** Autism knows no racial, ethnic or social boundaries, and neither income, lifestyle, nor education affects the occurrence; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2006, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pronounced autism a national public health epidemic whose cause and cure remain unknown; and
- WHEREAS,** On December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution proclaiming World Autism Awareness Day by unanimous consent, encouraging UN Member States to take measures to raise awareness about autism throughout society; and
- WHEREAS,** The aims for World Autism Awareness Day are to inform the general public about the global health crisis of autism, stress the importance of accurate, early diagnosis and early intervention, and to celebrate the unique talents and qualities of individuals with autism; and
- WHEREAS,** Over the past 30 years, significant progress has been made in the areas of research, medicine, diagnostic issues, and therapies resulting in the improved quality of life for those with autism and their loved ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANK SCOTTO, as Mayor of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2008 as

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Torrance, and encourage efforts to promote awareness of and fostering for the understanding of autism.

Signed this 1st day of April 2008.

Mayor Frank Scotto

ATTEST:

Sue Herbers
City Clerk

