



Grand Junction

State of Colorado

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *autism is a pervasive 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 68 children nationally; 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 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 and to support families' resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism can present; and*

WHEREAS, *Audyssey (STRiVE's autism program) is spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals, and the general public about autism and its effects.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phyllis Norris, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as

"National Autism Awareness Month"

in the City of Grand Junction 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, and create a better community for individuals with autism.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 6th day of April, 2016.

Phyllis Norris
Mayor

