



## PROCLAMATION

### AUTISM ACCEPTANCE & AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS**, accordingly to the CDC, approximately 1 in 31 children in the United States is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), reflecting a community that touches families, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods across Arlington and the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, autism is a complex neurological and developmental condition that manifests differently in each individual and no two people on the autism spectrum share the same strengths, challenges, or experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, awareness without acceptance is incomplete, and true inclusion requires moving beyond understanding autism in the abstract to actively embracing autistic individuals as full and valued members of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, autistic individuals contribute meaningfully to Arlington's civic, cultural, professional, and social life, and deserve environments that recognize their dignity, honor their differences, and remove barriers to participation; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington County is committed to fostering a community in which every resident, regardless of neurological difference, has access to the support, resources, and opportunities needed to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington County Department of Human Services (DHS), families, caregivers, educators, healthcare providers, organizations such as the Autism Society of Northern Virginia, and advocates in Arlington work every day to support autistic individuals and build a more inclusive community;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim **APRIL 2026**, as **AUTISM ACCEPTANCE & AWARENESS MONTH** in Arlington County and urge all residents, businesses, schools, and organizations to join in recognizing the experiences of autistic individuals and their families, promoting acceptance and inclusion, and reaffirming our shared commitment to a county where everyone belongs.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew de Ferranti".

Matt de Ferranti  
Chair, Arlington County Board