

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder is the result of a neurological disorder that can affect anyone, regardless of one's race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder affects 1 in 44 children in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder is estimated to be the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States of America, according to The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM); and

**WHEREAS**, early diagnosis and intervention, as well as ongoing support from family, doctors, therapists and educators can positively impact persons living with autism spectrum disorder to achieve better outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder should have access to appropriate services throughout their lifetime, so that they may achieve their greatest potential and lead happy and productive lives within their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, much more can be done to better support individuals with Autism as they look to obtain, maintain, and advance in employment, including collaborating among governmental agencies, businesses and partner groups, providing individual and custom support, offering comprehensive training, and conducting better advocacy and outreach strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of April, we strive to promote autism acceptance, inclusion, and self-determination for all, and assure that individuals with Autism have an opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coral Gables is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Acceptance Month in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding, treatment, and support for Autism as well advocate for employment opportunities for individuals with Autism;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, VINCE LAGO**, as Mayor of Coral Gables, along with the members of our City Commission do proclaim April 2023 as:

## **“WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH IN CORAL GABLES”**

**IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF**, I hereby encourage the residents of our “City Beautiful” to join me in our continual effort aimed at inspiring compassion, empowerment and hope for those afflicted with autism, along with their families and caregivers, alike.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great Seal of the City of Coral Gables to be affixed on this twenty-eighth day of March, A.D., 2023.

**Vince Lago**  
**Mayor**

**Michael Mena**  
**Vice Mayor**

**Rhonda Anderson**  
**Commissioner**

**Jim Cason**  
**Commissioner**

**Kirk R. Menendez**  
**Commissioner**