

# PROCLAMATION

## *National Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month*

**WHEREAS,** autism is a lifelong developmental and neurological spectrum disorder that affects individuals' communication, social interactions, and behavior. It can be diagnosed at any age but is described as a developmental disorder because symptoms generally appear in the first two years of life; and

**WHEREAS,** the prevalence of autism has increased, with an estimated 1 in 36 children being diagnosed, where boys are four times more likely to be diagnosed than girls; and

**WHEREAS,** individuals with autism contribute greatly to our communities and can thrive with proper support, education, and acceptance. Increasing public awareness and understanding fosters inclusion, reduces stigma, and promotes opportunities for individuals with autism to lead fulfilling lives; and

**WHEREAS,** April is recognized as Autism Awareness Month, and April 2<sup>nd</sup> is designated as World Autism Awareness Day to encourage education, advocacy, and support for our autism community and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** the Lodi Police Department is showing support by wearing and selling patches for \$10 each throughout the month of April to help raise money for a local organization that focuses on behavioral support for children with autism. By wearing these patches, we can spark conversations, promote acceptance, and provide resources to the autism community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Cameron Bregman, Mayor of the City of Lodi, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as *National Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month* in Lodi.

**SIGNED** this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2025.

Cameron Bregman  
Mayor, City of Lodi