



Office of the Mayor

# Proclamation

## Whereas:

Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders(ASDs) can encompass a broad range of developmental impairments that may cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges exhibited by deficits in social interaction and communication and delays in cognitive and learning abilities; and

**WHEREAS:** Symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in the significant lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communication; and

**WHEREAS:** Doctors, therapists, and educators can help persons with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early, accurate diagnosis, intervention and therapy that are vital to future growth and development; and

**WHEREAS:** Autism spectrum disorders affect an estimated one out of every 68 children in America. Individuals and families living with autism come from diverse backgrounds. These families face enormous challenges in assisting their loved ones over the course of their lifetimes. As those with ASDs reach early adulthood, families are often faced with even greater obstacles than during childhood, including planning for the successful transition into adulthood and independent life; and

**WHEREAS:** We need to ensure that persons living with autism have access to the lifelong care and services needed to pursue a full measure of personal happiness so they may achieve their greatest potential.

**NOW THEREFORE:** I, Sharetta Smith, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim April as

### AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Lima, Ohio and ask all citizens to join me in supporting initiatives related to autism research and supporting families and individuals as they respond to the challenges of ASDs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 4th day of April, 2022.

SHARETTA SMITH, MAYOR  
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO

