



- WHEREAS:** Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental condition that affects communication, behavior, and social interaction, impacting individuals and families in communities across the United States, including the City of Savannah; and
- WHEREAS:** Fostering understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals with autism strengthens our community and ensures that all residents are valued, respected and supported; and
- WHEREAS:** Autism Acceptance Month emphasizes not only awareness, but also the importance of embracing neurodiversity and recognizing the unique strengths, talents, and contributions of individuals on the autism spectrum; and.
- WHEREAS:** Early identification, specialized education, therapeutic services, and strong community partnerships can significantly improve opportunities and quality of life for individuals with autism and their families; and
- WHEREAS:** The Matthew Reardon Center for Autism (MRCA) has served as a vital resource in the Savannah community by providing specialized education, therapeutic services, and family support while promoting acceptance, empowerment, and opportunities for children with autism.
- WHEREAS:** The leadership and dedication of Shenequa Gresham, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Matthew Reardon Center for Autism, along with the educators, therapists, and staff of MRCA, continue to make a meaningful impact in the lives of students and families across our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor of the City of Savannah, Georgia, do hereby proclaim April, 2026 as

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

In the City of Savannah and encourage all residents, businesses, schools, and community organizations to join in promoting acceptance, understanding, and inclusion for individuals with autism and their families.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused
the Seal of the City of Savannah, Georgia to be affixed.
This 1st day of, APRIL 2026*

ATTEST
M. M. Mason
Clerk of Council
Van R. Johnson II
MAYOR