

RESOLUTION NUMBER 5
National Autism Awareness Month

WHEREAS, we pause in our deliberations to recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, In the wake of a recent new report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control(CDC) stating that autism now affects 1 in every 110 American children, Autism Speaks, the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, called on the federal government to immediately step up its efforts – and dramatically increase funding – to address the growing national autism public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 62/139, which supported the campaign for a World Autism Awareness Day through the current 62nd UN General Assembly Session, garnering consensus support from all United Nations Member States; and

WHEREAS, World Autism Awareness Day shines a bright light on autism as a growing global health crisis. WAAD activities help to increase and develop world knowledge of the autism epidemic and impart information regarding the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. Additionally, WAAD celebrates the unique talents and skills of persons with autism and is a day when individuals with autism are warmly welcomed and embraced in community events around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Autism Speaks is the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization. Since its inception only five short years ago, Autism Speaks has made enormous strides, committing over \$131 million to research and developing innovative new resources for families through 2014. The organization is dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. In addition to funding research, Autism Speaks also supports the Autism Treatment Network, Autism Genetic Resource Exchange and several other scientific and clinical programs; and

WHEREAS, government statistics suggest the prevalence rate of autism is increasing 10-17 percent annually. There is not established explanation for this increase, although improved diagnosis and environmental influences are two reasons often considered. Studies suggest boys are more likely than girls to develop autism and receive the diagnosis three to four times more frequently. Current estimates are that in the United States alone, one out of 70 boys is diagnosed with autism.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a copy for presentation at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 30th day of April, 2010 by:

Honorable April Ford Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen
Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward
Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward
Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward
Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward
Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward
Honorable Stephen J. Conway, Alderman 8th Ward
Honorable Kenneth A. Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward
Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward

Honorable Matthew Villa, Alderman 11th Ward
Honorable Stephen Gregali, Alderman 14th Ward
Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward
Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward
Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward
Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward
Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward
Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward
Honorable William Waterhouse, Alderman 24th Ward
Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward
Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Adopted this the 30th day of April, 2010 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen