



Proclamation

By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

WHEREAS, autism is a devastating, lifelong, and often incapacitating developmental disability, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy, interactive relationships, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, autism is the third most common developmental disability, affecting more than 500,000 individuals nationwide; and

WHEREAS, autism is the result of neurological dysfunction, directly affecting the functioning of the brain, and few members of the general public understand the complexity of this disorder; and

WHEREAS, although a cure for autism has not yet been found, persons with the disorder can be helped to reach their greatest potential through accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention, which are vital to the future growth and development of the individual; and

WHEREAS, support groups, such as the River Region Autism Support Group, and the Autism Society of Alabama have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism; and

WHEREAS, these groups remain committed to the cause of educating families, professionals, and the general public so that they may be aware of, and better understand the nature of this disability; and

WHEREAS, autism, in its complexity, requires both increased research in order to find a cure and great recognition and understanding in order to ensure that individuals with autism living in our community, our state, and throughout our country are accurately diagnosed, effectively educated, and appropriately treated throughout the duration of their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Gillespie, Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville, do hereby **PROCLAIM** the month of April, 2011, as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in Prattville, Alabama, and urge all citizens to educate themselves on this disorder, and to support those organizations which strive to help those affected by the disorder and to find a cure.



Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City of
Prattville on the 19th day of April 2011.


Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr.