

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong developmental disability, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, ASD is the third most common developmental disability, affecting tens of millions worldwide, around 3.5 million individuals nationwide; and

WHEREAS, persons with an Autism Spectrum Disorder can succeed and reach their highest potential with effective community-based supports. Accurate, early diagnosis, and the resulting appropriate education and intervention are vital to the future growth and development of the individual; and

WHEREAS, support groups, such as the Silver City Autism Awareness Group and the W.N.M.U. School of Social Work have dedicated their time and service in an ongoing effort to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with ASD; and

WHEREAS, these groups remain committed to individuals with ASD and to educating families, professionals, and the general public to better understand ASD; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a complex disability that requires a greater recognition and understanding to ensure that individuals with ASD living in Southern New Mexico and all around the world are afforded a self-determined life full of dignity, respect and fulfillment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ken Ladner, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico do hereby proclaim April 14, 2018 as

"AUTISM AWARENESS DAY"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this official seal of the Town of Silver City to be affixed this 10th day of April, 2018.

(Seal)

Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk