

Offered by Councillor JOHN R. CONNOLLY



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING AUTISM AWARENESS IN BOSTON

*WHEREAS*, The months of April is recognized as Autism Awareness Month, and is an opportunity to educate and raise awareness about issues within the autism community; and,

*WHEREAS*, Autism and autism spectrum disorders are complex developmental disabilities that are the result of neurological disorders that affect the functioning of the brain, impacting development in the areas of social interaction and communication skills; and,

*WHEREAS*, The Center for Disease Control estimates that one in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders each year, and 1.5 million individuals in the United States are affected by this disorder; and,

*WHEREAS*, Over the last ten years, Boston Public Schools estimates a 400% increase in the number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, and in the 2009 school year, nearly 500 autistic students between the ages of three and twenty-two attended public and private schools in Boston; and,

*WHEREAS*, According to an analysis by the Boston Public Health Commission, 45% of Massachusetts families of children with autism spectrum disorders have either had to reduce work hours or leave their employment to care for their children; and,

*WHEREAS*, Research indicates that intensive early intervention and education services can significantly improve developmental outcomes of those affected with autism spectrum disorders; and,

*WHEREAS*, The City of Boston has made investments in autism awareness including an autism summit in 2009 and the creation of an iPhone application that will help autistic individuals communicate better, and in order to best serve all residents of Boston, the City must continue to focus on issues within the autism community.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,*

That the Boston City Council continues to support and encourage autism awareness and education throughout the city and will work with organizations and researchers to produce optimum development, social integration, and adult autonomy for Boston individuals with autism.

Filed on: April 27, 2010