City of Santa Barbara

PROCLAMATION

Autism Awareness Month
April 2008

***WHEREAS**, autism is a lifelong, neurological disability that is characterized by impaired social interaction and communication; and*

***WHEREAS**, groups such as Autism Society of America, Santa Barbara, are committed to their mission of advocacy, support, education and providing awareness to families, professionals, and community members toward a better understanding of this disability; and*

***WHEREAS**, autism now occurs in 1 out of 150 children; and*

***WHEREAS**, autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting 36,952 individuals in California; and*

***WHEREAS**, on average this year, fourteen children per day enter our state's Developmental Services system with full syndrome autism; and*

***WHEREAS**, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment helps individuals with autism and related disorders reach their highest potential, and prevention and a cure will require additional research; and*

***WHEREAS**, greater recognition and understanding is needed to ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lifetimes.*

***NOW THEREFORE, I, MARTY BLUM,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, California, do hereby proclaim April 2008 as **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** and encourage members of our community to develop a greater understanding of this complex disability that affects so many individuals in the city.*

***IN WITNESS THEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 8th day of April, 2008.*

Marty Blum

MARTY BLUM, MAYOR