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 communications; and*

WHEREAS, *Autism is the third most common developmental disability, effecting more than 500,000 individuals nationwide; and*

WHEREAS, *Autism is the result of neurological dysfunction, directly effecting 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 is 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 individuals; and*

WHEREAS, *support groups, such as the River Region Autism Support Group, and the Autism Society for Alabama have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all person 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 education and appropriately treated throughout the duration of their lives.*

NOW THEREFORE, *I, Bill Gillespie, Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville, Alabama, do hereby* ***Proclaim*** *April, 2012 as*

Autism Awareness Month

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

Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City of Prattville on the 3rd day of April, 2012.

Mayor Bill Gillespie Jr.