

PROCLAMATION

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

“Apraxia Awareness Day”

WHEREAS, May 14, 2024 marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout New Jersey about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder that affects 1-in-1,000 children; and

WHEREAS, childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children; and

WHEREAS, the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia require early, appropriate, and intensive speech therapy, often for many years to learn to speak; and

WHEREAS, without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia will have diminished communication skills, but are also placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills; and

WHEREAS, that such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities and challenge the ability to become productive, contributing citizens if not resolved or improved; and

WHEREAS, public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in New Jersey is essential for families of children with this neurological disorder and the professionals who support them to achieve the needed services for those learning to use their own voice; and

WHEREAS, our highest respect goes to these children, as well as their families, for their effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Portman, Mayor of the Borough of Red Bank proclaim that May 14, 2024 is **“Apraxia Awareness Day”** and citizens of Red Bank are encouraged to work to increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of April 2023.



William Portman, Mayor