



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2014

CONTACT: Amie M. Downs
412-350-3711 office
412-327-3700 cell

Fitzgerald Proclaims Autism Awareness Month, Turns Courthouse Blue

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald today proclaimed April 2014 as “Autism Awareness Month” in Allegheny County and announced that the County Courthouse will be turned blue this month in recognition of that designation. He also recognized World Autism Awareness Day, which is today, in his remarks and the formal proclamation.

“Our residents have two great resources available to them for information about autism in ABOARD’s Autism Connection of PA and Autism Speaks,” said County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. “Both organizations are committed to providing support to individuals with autism, and their families. Their work to bring awareness and advocacy and to raise funds to aid the cause is unmatched and increases the hope that one day a cure will exist.”

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a complex neurological disorder that inhibits a person’s ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by behavioral challenges. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that one in 68 children in the United States fall in the autism spectrum. Currently, the cause and cure of autism remain unknown.

“At the Autism Connection of PA, we work to support parents and those with autism across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,” said Lu Randall, Executive Director of the Autism Connection of PA. “Allegheny County recently launched an online Special Needs Registry which allows residents with physical, mental health, or intellectual disabilities to provide information to its Department of Emergency Services. This registry is of great benefit to those with autism and the individuals that are responding in emergencies. We are grateful to the County for its advocacy and support.”

While the Courthouse will be bathed in blue for the entire month of April, the County Executive formally presented the proclamation to representatives of Autism Speaks and ABOARD’s Autism Connection of PA today at the Allegheny County Courthouse in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day.

###

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
101 COURTHOUSE • 436 GRANT STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 350-6500 • FAX (412) 350-6512

