



M A R Y L A N D

Anne Arundel County Government
Arundel Center

Office of County Executive

MEMORANDUM

TO: Anne Arundel County Carnival/Festival Organizers

FROM: County Executive Steve Schuh

DATE: April 17, 2017

SUBJECT: National Autism Awareness Month

As spring gets underway in Anne Arundel County, I am writing to encourage you to address the needs of the growing number of our citizens diagnosed with autism.

April is National Autism Awareness Month, and it is an excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness and acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands of people diagnosed with autism each year. To help achieve this goal, I am asking all sponsors of carnivals and other public festivals in our County to consider setting aside a couple of “sensory free” hours one evening to accommodate autistic children and other citizens with special needs.

Sensory-free events are a growing trend across the Country. All that is required is for festival sponsors to dim the lights and sounds associated with many popular rides and attractions for one night. This practice provides a modified, less jarring atmosphere for autistic children and other special-needs families, allowing these individuals and families to enjoy our wonderful spring and summer festivities.

I hope your organization will consider this request. If you have any further questions, please contact my office at 410-222-1821.