MEDIA ALERT

Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky to Present Proclamation to Abilis Recognizing April as Autism Aw*areness and Acceptance Month*

April 14th Ceremony to Spotlight Abilis' Partnerships and Programs in Darien and Throughout Fairfield County

WHO: Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky will present a proclamation recognizing **April as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month** and honoring **Abilis**, on **Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.**, at the Mather Center in Darien, Connecticut. Abilis CEO and President **Amy Montimurro,** Abilis staff and community members will be on hand to accept the proclamation.

Abilis serves and supports more than 800 individuals with disabilities and their families throughout lower Fairfield County. In Darien, Abilis has several programs including its Abilis-run Cafés at the Darien Library and the Darien YMCA, a Project SEARCH Internship program at the Darien YMCA, a LEAP (Life Skills, Employment, Advocacy, Partnership) program at the Mather Center for young adults transitioning from school to adulthood, as well as residential homes and apartments and additional community members employed with area businesses.

In addition to First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky, other attendees will include **Kiera Parrott**, director of Darien Library, J**ennifer Carcieri**, CEO of the Darien YMCA and **David Genovese**, founder of Baywater Properties, who has been a valued partner of Abilis, working with the organization on residential options and employment opportunities for Abilis community members in town.

WHAT: The event will also highlight Abilis, which for 75 years has been a leader in Fairfield County providing programs and services for children and adults with disabilities from birth throughout their lives. Abilis provides early intervention and customized therapies, as well as family education and advocacy to help individuals achieve important developmental milestones. As individuals approach and enter adulthood, Abilis provides a wide range of Life Services programs, including recreational activities, transition and life skills support, job training, competitive and supported employment, and a choice of residential options.

The Town of Darien is issuing a proclamation recognizing Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month and celebrating the partnerships with Abilis helping individuals with autism and other disabilities live, work and thrive in the community.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 1 p.m.

WHERE: The Mather Center, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT.

WHY: As Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month is observed nationwide, Darien is recognizing the importance of inclusion, accessibility and opportunity close to home. This proclamation ceremony shines a light on the essential work Abilis is doing every day across lower Fairfield County to expand services, create pathways to employment, support families and build a more inclusive community for all.

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