

# ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PROCLAMATION

## Apraxia Awareness Day May 14, 2024

**Whereas,** May 14, 2024 marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout Arlington Heights about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder that affects 1-in-1,000 children.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Whereas,** public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Arlington Heights 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.

**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.

Let it be resolved, that May 14, 2024 is "Apraxia Awareness Day" and citizens of Arlington Heights and surrounds are encouraged to work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.

Apraxia Kids is the leading nonprofit that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of speech. Please visit [www.apraxia-kids.org](http://www.apraxia-kids.org) for more information.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Thomas W. Hayes, Mayor of Arlington Heights, along with the Arlington Heights Village Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim **May 14, 2024** as the sixth Annual Apraxia Awareness Day where the citizens of Arlington Heights are encouraged to work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of Childhood Apraxia of Speech.

  
Thomas W. Hayes, Mayor

Trustee Richard Baldino  
Trustee James Bertucci  
Trustee Wendy Dunnington  
Trustee Nicolle Grasse

Trustee Robin LaBedz  
Trustee Tom Schwingbeck  
Trustee Scott Shirley  
Trustee Jim Tinaglia

