



The City of Minneapolis

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

**B. Johnson, Reich, Gordon, Frey, Yang, Warsame, Goodman,
Glidden, Cano, Bender, Quincy, A. Johnson, Palmisano**

Recognizing February 15, 2016, as International Angelman Day

Whereas, Angelman Syndrome (AS) is a rare, severe neurological disorder characterized by profound developmental delays, problems with motor coordination (ataxia) and balance, and epilepsy; and

Whereas, individuals with AS do not develop functional speech. The seizure disorder in individuals with Angelman Syndrome can be difficult to treat, and feeding disorders in infancy are common with some persisting throughout childhood. Sleeping difficulties are commonly noted. AS affects all races and both genders equally; and

Whereas, people living with AS require life-long care, intense therapies to help develop functional skills and improve their quality of life, and close medical supervision often involving multiple medical interventions; and

Whereas, Angelman Syndrome may be misdiagnosed since other syndromes have similar characteristics. Many individuals with Angelman Syndrome are attracted to water and take great pleasure in activities like swimming and bathing. However, parents and caretakers must take vigilant precaution because most AS individuals are unable to swim; and

Whereas, despite these challenges, those with Angelman Syndrome tend to have a very happy demeanor, characterized by frequent laughing, smiling, and excitability; and

Whereas, the date was chosen by global Angelman organizations to coincide with International Rare Disease Month, which is recognized throughout the world annually in February with the specific date chosen as the 15th to tie in with Chromosome 15, the human chromosome which Angelman Syndrome affects; and

Whereas, the purpose of this day is to raise worldwide awareness of the condition; mobilize people to action and encourage fundraising for the individual organization in their country; remember those people with Angelman Syndrome who are no longer with us; and promote research and educational resources in your country and local communities; and

Whereas, the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics (FAST) is an all-volunteer organization of families and professionals dedicated to finding a cure for Angelman Syndrome and related disorders through the funding of an aggressive research agenda, education, and advocacy. The Foundation is committed to assisting individuals living with Angelman Syndrome to realize their full potential and quality of life. FAST is served by two boards – the Board of Directors and the Scientific Advisory Board. Together they are working tirelessly to bring practical treatment into current medical practice as quickly as possible;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That February 15, 2016, be recognized as International Angelman Day in the City of Minneapolis and that the 35W Bridge be lit Midnight Blue on this day.