

Better Hearing and Speech Month

WHEREAS over 48 million Americans experience some form of communication disorder. Communication disorders compromise physical and emotional health and affect the social, financial, educational, vocational, and recreational aspects of life.

WHEREAS hearing loss is beyond a harmless annoyance. Hearing loss creates higher risk of developing health conditions including social isolation, depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, and dementia. Over 28 million Americans have hearing loss that can be treated; yet fewer than 7 million use a hearing aid, mainly due to cost and stigma. Communication impairments affect the most vulnerable in our society—the young, the aged, the disabled, and the poor.

WHEREAS over 10 percent of children have moderate to severe communication impairments, including speech production/articulation, stuttering, and language-learning difficulties. These children are 4 to 5 times more likely than their peers to experience other language-learning disabilities including significant reading problems. Approximately 1 million people in the United States have aphasia, speech disability caused by stroke.

THEREFORE the City of Longmont, in support of the **National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)** and **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)**, recognizes the month of May as national **Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM)**.