



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT

WILLIAM P. MCMANUS

CHIEF OF POLICE



"The San Antonio Police Department is dedicated to improving the quality of life by creating a safe environment in partnership with the people we serve. We act with integrity to reduce fear and crime while treating all with respect, compassion, and fairness."

January 8, 2019

Ms. Jennifer Allen
Founder/CEO
Aspergers 101
P.O. Box 160041
San Antonio, TX 78280

Dear Ms. Allen:

The purpose of this letter is to express my wholehearted support for your efforts to pass legislation designed to enhance the safety of motorists with communication impediments and law enforcement personnel. There is no question that the Driving with Autism Initiative will provide officers with critical information by alerting law enforcement of impediments, such as Autism, Aspergers or PTSD, that a motorist may have prior to the officer approaching the vehicle.

The San Antonio Police Department has had the opportunity work closely with you over the last year to raise public awareness to the challenges experienced by motorists with communication impediments and to provide area law enforcement agencies with information on the topic. Our collaboration culminated with the SAPD hosting the *Aspergers 101 Luncheon* on April 19, 2018 featuring Dr. Temple Grandin, which provided law enforcement personnel from over 15 area law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to learn more about effective communication techniques when interacting with an individual with Autism and Aspergers.

It is my understanding that the Driving with Autism Initiative has received support from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. On behalf of the SAPD, I am proud to support this proposed legislation, and thank you for your continued dedication.

If I can be of assistance in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,

William P. McManus
Chief of Police