

Proclamation

The seal of the City of Tampa, Florida, featuring a ship on the water, surrounded by the text "CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA" and "ORGANIZED JULY 15, 1887".

Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, all children deserve strong families with parents who are there to protect and love them, and every year hundreds of Hillsborough County, Florida families extend the gift of family to a child through adoption, providing a unique opportunity to improve children's lives and enrich the lives of adoptive parents, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, there are over 400,000 children in foster care, with more than 117,000 available for adoption, and many youths age out of the foster care system without finding a permanent loving home; and

WHEREAS, the Administration for Children and Families established the ALL-IN Foster Adoption Challenge nationally to work with states, nonprofits, businesses, faith partners and local communities to assist in finding homes for waiting children and to provide support for families as they open their hearts; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, government agencies and nonprofit organizations work together to raise awareness about foster care, including our community of Hillsborough County, whereby the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court, Children's Legal Services, Guardian ad Litem, Voices for Children, Eckerd Connects, the Department of Children and Families, the Sylvia Thomas Center, Rough Riders, Heart Gallery of Tampa, Children's Board of Hillsborough County, and other community organizations and supportive individuals join together to bring attention to foster care and to those children still awaiting adoption, and the tremendous value of adoption in the Tampa Bay area; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, April 30, 2022, the **Spring into Adoption 2022**, held at the Florida Department of Children and Families on Florida Avenue in Tampa, Florida, features a **Drive Thru Celebration** to commemorate the adoption of **135** children into **101** forever families, and the event provides an opportunity for the Tampa community to share in the happiness of many adoption finalizations, and celebrate this important and life-changing moment in the lives of the children and their new families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, April 30, 2022, as

"SPRING INTO ADOPTION 2022 – BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join in honoring the many caring families and individuals who have made a difference in a child's life through adoption, because *while adopting one child may not change the world, for that one child, the world will change.*

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 30th day of April 2022.





Mayor