

Proclamation



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 approximately 407,000 children in foster care including about 19,000 in the state of Florida, and more than 122,000 are eligible for adoption, waiting an average of four years for an adoptive family; and many youth age out of the foster care system without finding a permanent loving home, and 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, November is known as **National Adoption Month** to bring attention to the enrichment that adoption brings, and this year, **National Adoption Day** is on Saturday, November 19, 2022, held throughout the United States to further raise awareness through planned celebrations that offer children the opportunity for loving forever families, while encouraging others to consider the joys that come with adoption; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, government agencies and nonprofit organizations work together to raise awareness about foster care, and in Hillsborough County, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court, the Junior League of Tampa, Guardian ad Litem Program, Voices for Children, Children's Network of Hillsborough, 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 will join together to celebrate November as National Adoption Month 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 Friday, November 18, 2022, on the sixth floor at the George E. Edgecomb Courthouse, **National Adoption Day in Hillsborough County** is celebrated, and it features the commemoration of the adoption of children into forever families in our community, and the event provides an opportunity for the Tampa community to witness 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 Friday, November 18, 2022, as

“NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY”

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 1st day of November 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor