

1 Introduced by Council Members Miller and Johnson and Co-Sponsored by
2 Council Members Amaro and Salem:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-349-A**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS NATIONAL
7 FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
8 REFLECT ON THE CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN IN
9 THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM; REQUESTING EMERGENCY
10 PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN
11 EFFECTIVE DATE.

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13 **WHEREAS,** in 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a
14 proclamation designating May as National Foster Care Awareness Month
15 to raise awareness about the needs of children and youth in foster
16 care, and to recognize the contributions of foster parents; and

17 **WHEREAS,** National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to
18 celebrate the foster and kinship families who play a crucial role in
19 serving as a support, not a substitute, for the parents of youth in
20 foster care to make family unification possible; and

21 **WHEREAS,** more than 400,000 children and youth are in foster
22 care throughout the nation; and

23 **WHEREAS,** thousands of children in the state of Florida enter
24 the foster care system every year, often due to abuse, neglect,
25 abandonment, or family crises; and

26 **WHEREAS,** children in foster care are much more likely to face
27 educational instability, adverse mental health, and unfortunate
28 misperceptions that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly,
29 and dangerous; and

30 **WHEREAS,** the vital work of North Florida child welfare
31 professionals is an important part of the local system of care, where

1 they change lives, strengthen families, and inspire hope every single
2 day; and

3 **WHEREAS,** local non-profits provide critical resources to those
4 in their care and are an integral part of our community; and

5 **WHEREAS,** the number of available foster and kinship families
6 often falls short of demand, leaving many children without the stable,
7 loving homes they need to lead healthy and productive lives; and

8 **WHEREAS,** according to available data, due to heavy caseloads
9 and limited resources, median turnover rates for frontline
10 caseworkers have ranged from 17 percent to 25 percent; and

11 **WHEREAS,** government, community organizations, and concerned
12 citizens must work together to improve foster care so every child can
13 grow up in a safe, nurturing environment; now therefore

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

15 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes May 2025 as
16 National Foster Care Awareness Month and encourages all relevant
17 stakeholders to implement policies and take meaningful action to
18 improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

19 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage upon Introduction**
20 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
21 introduction of this legislation is requested in order to recognize
22 National Foster Care Awareness Month in May 2025 in a timely manner.

23 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
24 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
25 without the Mayor's signature.

26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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