

1 Introduced by Council Member Miller:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-282**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2026 AS NATIONAL
6 FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
7 REFLECT ON THE CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN IN
8 THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
9 DATE.
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11 **WHEREAS**, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation
12 designating May as National Foster Care Awareness Month to raise
13 awareness about the needs of children and youth in foster care, and
14 to recognize the contributions of foster parents; and

15 **WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to
16 celebrate the foster and kinship families who open their homes and
17 provide stability and care during a confusing and challenging time
18 for children; and

19 **WHEREAS**, foster and kinship families are integral members of a
20 child's support system, providing a temporary home, ensuring the
21 child's physical, emotional, and educational needs are met, and
22 serving as a support, not a substitute, for biological families to
23 make family reunification possible; and

24 **WHEREAS**, children in foster care face unique challenges,
25 including frequent placement changes that disrupt their development,
26 the emotional impact of separation from their biological families,
27 and the risk of aging out of the foster care system without permanent
28 family connections; and

29 **WHEREAS**, children in foster care are often subject to social
30 stigma, which can lead to feelings of isolation, affect their self-
31 esteem, and create barriers to forming meaningful relationships with

1 peers; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the vital work of North Florida child welfare
3 professionals is an important part of the local system of care, where
4 they change lives, strengthen families, and inspire hope every single
5 day; and

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

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

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

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

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

18 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes May 2026 as
19 National Foster Care Awareness Month and encourages all relevant
20 stakeholders to implement policies and take meaningful action to
21 improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

22 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
23 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
24 without the Mayor's signature.

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26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Steven Libby, City Council Research

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