

Introduced by Council Members Miller and Johnson:

**RESOLUTION 2025-349**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 day; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22       **Section 3. 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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29 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

30 Office of General Counsel

31 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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