

1 Introduced by Council Member Miller and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Freeman, Johnson and Pittman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-282-A**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2026 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; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
10 DATE.

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

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

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

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

30 **WHEREAS**, children in foster care are often subject to social  
31 stigma, which can lead to feelings of isolation, affect their self-

1 esteem, and create barriers to forming meaningful relationships with  
2 peers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 **Section 2. 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: Steven Libby, City Council Research

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