

Introduced by Council Member Miller and Co-Sponsored by Council Member Johnson and amended on the Floor of Council:

RESOLUTION 2026-518-A

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2026 AS
REUNIFICATION MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE; REQUESTING
EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, all children deserve the care, love, security and stability of family to provide a solid foundation for personal development, growth, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, reunification with family is the preferred outcome for children and youth placed in out-of-home care, and is associated with positive outcomes for children and youth; and

WHEREAS, reunification with family is the most common outcome for children in out-of-home care and each year, hundreds of thousands of children are successfully reunified with their families nationally; and

WHEREAS, June is recognized nationally as Reunification Month, acknowledging the perseverance of parents who overcome overwhelming challenges to safely reunify with their children, showing other parents that the issues that led to family separation are solvable and reunification is achievable; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 in Duval and Nassau counties, 588 youth exited out-of-home care, of which 218 were reunified with their parents and 69 found permanency with kin or like-kin relations, providing healing and stability as they grow; and

WHEREAS, safe reunification is possible when parents, extended family members, DCF Family Services workers, foster parents, service

providers, lawyers, judges, and others work together; and

WHEREAS, June is recognized as National Reunification Month to honor the hard work of the families necessary to reunite with their children, and the professionals, programs, and services that helped them achieve their goal; now therefore

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

Section 1. The City Council hereby recognizes June 2026 as Reunification Month in Jacksonville.

Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency. Emergency passage upon introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the emergency is that there is an event scheduled on June 13, 2026, to celebrate Reunification Month and the City Council would like to act upon this Resolution in advance so it can be presented at the event.

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

Form Approved:

/s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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