

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, all children deserve strong families with parents who are there to protect and love them, and every year hundreds of Hillsborough County, Florida families extend the gift of family to a child through adoption, providing a unique opportunity to improve children's lives and enrich the lives of adoptive parents, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, there are over 437,000 children in foster care, with more than 125,000 available for adoption, and the average wait time for a child in foster care to be adopted is three years, with many ageing out of the foster care system without finding a permanent loving home, and in Florida, state and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations work together to raise awareness about foster care and adoptions in our state; and

WHEREAS, November is known as **Adoption Recognition Month** nationally to bring attention to the enrichment that adoption brings, and this year, **National Adoption Day** is on November 23, 2019, held throughout the United States to further raise awareness through planned celebrations that offer children the opportunity for loving forever families, while encouraging others to consider the joys that come with adoption; and

WHEREAS, in Hillsborough County, Florida, the Thirteenth Judicial Court, the Junior League of Tampa, Guardian ad Litem, Voices for Children, Eckerd Connects, the Department of Children and Families, the Office of the Attorney General, Rough Riders, Heart Gallery of Tampa and other community organizations will join together to celebrate November as National Adoption Month in an effort to bring attention to foster care and to those children still awaiting adoption, and the tremendous value of adoption in the Tampa Bay area; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, November 15, 2019, the George E. Edgecomb Courthouse will open its doors to host **Hillsborough National Adoption Day** featuring the theme **Adoption Rocks!**, and the event provides an opportunity for the Tampa community to witness the happiness of many adoption finalizations, and celebrate this important and life-changing moment in the lives of the children and their new families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, November 15, 2019 as

“NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join in honoring the many caring families and individuals who have made a difference in a child's life through adoption.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 15th day of November, 2019.



Jane Castor
Mayor