

Resolution



ORDER NO. 2022-1233

DATE: November 15, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

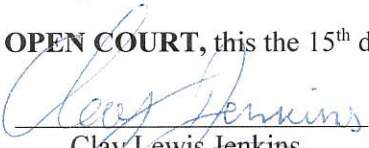
BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 15th day of November 2022, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner District 1, and seconded by, Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

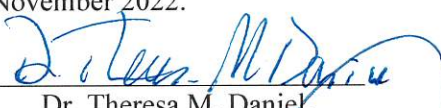
National Adoption Day

- WHEREAS**, November is National Adoption Awareness Month and includes National Adoption Day, a collective, national effort by advocates, practitioners and policymakers to raise awareness of the more than 120,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent and loving families; and
- WHEREAS**, The Dallas County Child Welfare Board, whose mission is to support a network of volunteers concerned with the welfare of children, wishes to celebrate the love and generosity of adoptive families and to appreciate the work of those who help find and support permanent and loving families for children who are in protective care and cannot safely return home; and
- WHEREAS**, Since its first year in 2000, National Adoption Day, celebrated the Saturday before Thanksgiving, has seen 75,000 children across the United States be adopted. Initially piloted in nine cities, National Adoption Days now occur in 400 cities nationwide; and
- WHEREAS**, Dallas County established its annual adoption day in the year 2000 with the assistance of former Commissioner Mike Cantrell and continued with Commissioner Theresa Daniel. Since its inception, more than 1,400 Dallas County children in foster care have been adopted by their forever families as part of National Adoption Day. In fiscal year 2022, 251 Dallas County children in state protective care were adopted and at year-end 1,419 Dallas County children remained in protective care; and
- WHEREAS**, The Dallas County Adoption Preparation Unit works to select adoptive families and prepare them and the children for the realities of adoption. Profiles of children are broadcast on the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE) and featured on Wednesday's Child; and
- WHEREAS**, Children in foster care have been dramatically impacted by the pandemic. The time in placement for children adopted by non-relatives increased by five months from 27 months in fiscal year 2019 to 32 months in fiscal year 2021. Available licensed placements also were impacted by the loss of foster homes, the closing of residential treatment centers, and restrictions on beds due to staff losses impacting the ability to maintain required staff-to-child ratios. Due to increased isolation, children in foster care also suffered from mental health issues. In addition, school closings adversely impacted academic progress, particularly in households with limited access to the Internet; and
- WHEREAS**, The 22nd annual National Adoption Day, organized by the Dallas County Adoption Preparation Unit and Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), with volunteers from the Dallas County Child Welfare Board, will take place in person in Dallas on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center, 2600 Lone Star Drive, Dallas, Texas 75212.

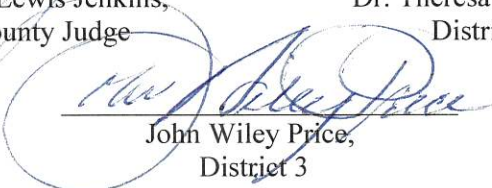
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Commissioners Court of Dallas County do hereby recognize and celebrate **National Adoption Day**. We appreciate the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and specifically the Dallas County Adoption Preparation Unit, Dallas CASA staff and child advocates, and the courts who work to create permanency for children in foster care. Additionally, by working with policymakers, practitioners and advocates to finalize adoptions and create and celebrate adoptive families. National Adoption Day makes dreams come true.

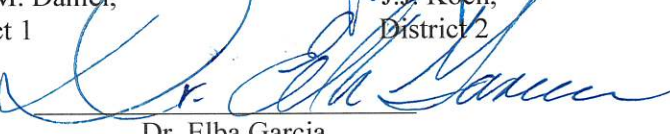
DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 15th day of November 2022.


Clay Lewis Jenkins,
County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel,
District 1


J.L. Koch,
District 2


John Wiley Price,
District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia,
District 4