

Resolution



ORDER NO. 2023-1324

DATE: November 21, 2023

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

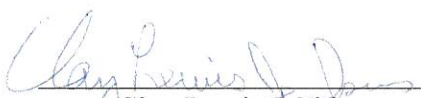
BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 21st day of November 2023, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner District 1, and seconded by, Andrew Sommerman, Commissioner District 2, the following Resolution was adopted:

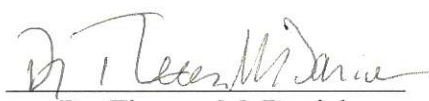
National Adoption Day

- WHEREAS**, November is National Adoption Awareness Month and includes 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**, Dallas County established its annual adoption month celebration 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 Month. In fiscal year 2023, 194 Dallas County children in state protective care were adopted and at year-end 1,207 Dallas County children remained in protective care; and
- WHEREAS**, The average length of time in placement for children adopted by non-relatives remained at the fiscal year 2021 level of 32 months, up from 27 months in fiscal year 2019; and
- WHEREAS**, Nationally the wait time for a child in foster care to be adopted averages nearly three years, but there are more than 20,000 children who age out of the foster care system nationally every year with no family or permanent home; 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.

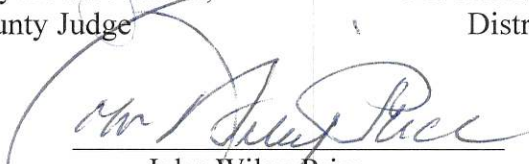
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Commissioners Court of Dallas County do hereby recognize and celebrate **National Adoption Month**. We appreciate the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and specifically the Dallas County Adoption Preparation Unit, Dallas CASA staff and child 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.

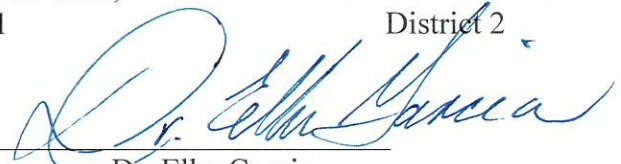
DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 21st day of November 2023.


Clay Lewis Jenkins,
County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel,
District 1


Andrew Sommerman
District 2


John Wiley Price,
District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia,
District 4