

CITY OF MANASSAS PARK - STAFF REPORT/RECOMMENDATION

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT: *Social Services Department*

MEETING DATE: November 19th, 2019

SUBJECT/TOPIC: *Recognition of November as Adoption Awareness Month*

BACKGROUND: Ralph S. Northam, recognized November 2019 as Adoption Awareness Month in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**,

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: *That the Governing Body adopt the attached proclamation to recognize November as Adoption Awareness Month.*

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:	 _____ <i>Laszlo A. Palko, City Manager</i>
CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL: Required: _____ Not Required: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x _____	 _____ <i>Dean H. Crowhurst</i>

ATTACHMENTS: *Proclamation - Adoption Awareness Month*

City of Manassas Park
November 2019 Adoption Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Virginians is important to the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, every child in Virginia, regardless of physical, medical or emotional challenges, age or race, needs love, support, security and a place to call home; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 5,000 children in Virginia's foster care program and more than 600 children have the goal of adoption and are available for placement in an adoptive home; and

WHEREAS, these children can thrive and reach their full potential when given a firm foundation and love from a family with a desire to parent a child who would otherwise not have permanency in their lives; and

WHEREAS, children can thrive, reach their full potential, and spread their wings when given the loving and firm foundation of a family; and

WHEREAS, in addition to adoption from foster care, it is appropriate to recognize those who have chosen other adoption options to build a family; and

WHEREAS, it is important for every child who cannot be raised by a birth parent to find a permanent home because children have better outcomes when they are raised in families; and

WHEREAS, not all children waiting to be adopted are newborns; many older youth who live in foster care desire to be adopted, just as many siblings who are separated in foster care long to be adopted by the same family; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Heart Galleries have been created throughout the Commonwealth to provide much needed exposure for children waiting to be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration of both public and private adoption agencies along with community agencies, religious organizations, businesses, and others should be recognized for their commitment to the needs of children throughout the Commonwealth;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manassas Park Governing Body hereby proclaims November 2019 as **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** in the City of Manassas Park, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

Approved

Jeanette Rishell, Mayor

Keith Nguyen, Acting City Clerk