

# Resolution



ORDER NO. 2020-1206

DATE: November 17, 2020

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §


**BE IT REMEMBERED**, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 17th day of November 2020, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner District 1, and seconded by, John Wiley Price, Commissioner District 3, 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 2019, 327 Dallas County children in state protective care were adopted and at year-end 429 Dallas County children were awaiting adoption; 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 children attend match parties with their caseworkers; and
- WHEREAS**, The Dallas County Adoption Preparation Unit reports the average length of time from termination of parental rights to adoptive placement is two and a half years. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 virtually in Dallas on Saturday, November 21, 2020.


**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Commissioners Court of Dallas County does hereby recognize and celebrate **National Adoption Day**, and 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, and by working with policymakers, practitioners and advocates to finalize adoptions and create and celebrate adoptive families, National Adoption Day makes dreams come true.

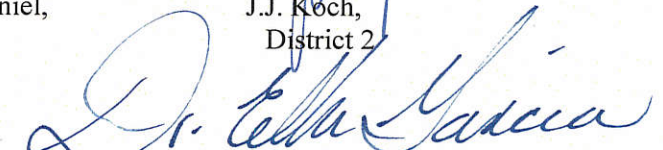
**DONE IN OPEN COURT**, this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020.

  
Clay Lewis Jenkins,  
County Judge

  
Dr. Theresa M. Daniel,  
District 1

  
J.J. Koch,  
District 2

  
John Wiley Price,  
District 3

  
Dr. Elba Garcia,  
District 4