

URGING THE SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION TO PROCLAIM MAY 2017 FOSTER CARE MONTH.

WHEREAS, the family is the foundation of a strong and healthy community; and

WHEREAS, in San Francisco there are 697 children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, in San Francisco there are 188 foster youth in Non-Minor Dependent Status; and

WHEREAS, foster parents, including relative and non-related extended family members, provide an essential service to the community in caring for children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, the importance of the family structure is best served in foster homes that model family living, as opposed to group care; and

WHEREAS, the stability and permanency for children and foster children is of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, permanency is defined as both a process and result that includes the active involvement of the child or youth, and

WHEREAS, permanency is defined as a permanent connection with at least one committed adult, which may include the biological parents through reunification, or with another adult family member, fictive kin, adult siblings, or other important individuals in the child or youth's life who commit to the child through adoption or guardianship; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the entire community to make sure that each youth who leave the foster care system in California has a permanent lifelong connection with a caring adult; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is in need of dedicated care providers who will strive in partnership with the Human Services Agency to identify and connect children and youth in foster care to permanent lifelong relationships; and

WHEREAS, dedicated care providers model strength-based and solution-focused engagement with the children and youth in their care and with the community-based and government entities providing services and support; and

WHEREAS, community-based organizations within San Francisco partner with the Human Services Agency to provide accessible and culturally relevant family-centered services that meet the unique needs of the families and children we serve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Human Services Commission proclaims May 2017 FOSTER CARE MONTH and urges all community members to volunteer their talents and energies to honor children and youth in foster care and those who have exited the foster care system during this month and throughout the year.