

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

November 1, 2011

Adoption is a life-long commitment and a selfless expression of love and dedication to a child in need of a permanent home. Children in the child welfare system need adults and caregivers that are patient, loving, and willing to provide the nurturing, security and stability that all children desire and need in order to develop their full potential. Adopting a child from the child welfare system has many unique and special benefits that are demonstrated in the everyday actions and words of committed and caring individuals.

Most of the children adopted through the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services have suffered some form of abuse or neglect. These children have had the difficult task of having to leave the place they called home at a moment's notice, and having to adjust to living with new families, in new neighborhoods and surroundings. These experiences would be challenging enough for an adult; now imagine how these experiences affect a child.

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services is the largest public child welfare agency in the country. The mission of the Department's Adoption and Permanency Resources Division is to recruit, prepare, and support families to provide healthy, stable, loving and permanent homes to children who cannot safely live with their birth parents.

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

The Adoption and Permanency Resources Division welcomes and needs individuals and families – regardless of age, sex, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, martial or domestic partnership status, physical characteristics, national origin, medical status or disability status – to help fulfill its mission and open up the doors to a child waiting for a permanent home and a lifelong family commitment.

With over 500 children in Los Angeles County’s foster care system that are in need of an adoptive family, it is more important now rather than later to bring awareness to this need and recruit loving prospective adoptive families.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

- (1) Declare the month of November 2011 as Adoption Awareness Month;
- (2) Encourage families and others in the community to consider the benefits and rewards of adopting a child by calling (888) 811-1121 to become a foster or adoptive parent; and
- (3) Order that the announcement of “November is Adoption Awareness Month. Please call (888) 811-1121 to become a foster/adoptive parent” be printed on all County warrants.

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