

Wilmington, Delaware  
April 5, 2018

**#4499**

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Chukwuocha**

**WHEREAS**, recognizing May as “National Foster Care Month” is an opportunity to raise awareness about the unique challenges of children in the foster care system, and is also an opportune time to advocate for local, state and federal implementation of policies that seek to improve the quality of life for children in the foster care system; and

**WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month was established more than 20 years ago to highlight the needs of children in the foster care system, to promote the importance of permanency for every child and recognize the vital life-changing roles foster parents, social workers, and foster care and adoption advocates have on children in the system; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary goal for the care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children, while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child. According to Kids Count Delaware, over 1,200 children are in the foster care system in Delaware. Over 200 of these children have no reunification plans and are waiting for adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families; and

**WHEREAS**, foster parents are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents and provide physical care, emotional support, education and are the largest source of families to provide a permanent home for children leaving foster care for adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, in Delaware, as across the nation, the number of children entering into the foster care system is rising due to the Opioid epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, an increase in prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are forced to remain in the foster care system; and

**WHEREAS**, (LAM) the Living Arms Ministry of the Resurrection Center located within the First District has a mission to advocate for, and recruit advocates for children in the foster care system in New Castle County, Delaware, along with inspiring and finding foster families; and

**WHEREAS**, LAM sponsors foster care information sessions for community and faith based groups, partners with community organizations to provide direct support to children in the foster care system, and provides contact for individuals interested in becoming Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that Council officially recognizes May as “National Foster Care Month,” and in doing so, urges all citizens to support the efforts of the Living Arms Ministry of the Resurrection Center to raise awareness about the importance of foster care and the need for caring foster parents and foster homes.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution officially recognizes the month of May as “National Foster Care Month”, and calls on the people of Wilmington to support the efforts of the Living Arms Ministry of the Resurrection Center in their pursuit to raise awareness about the importance of foster care.