



WHEREAS, May is National Foster Care Month, a time to recognize that all of us can play a role in improving the lives of children in our community and work to provide the brightest future possible for our most cherished citizens; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 1988, U.S. Presidents have issued annual proclamations in recognition of May being National Foster Care Month; and

WHEREAS, The focus of National Foster Care Month evolves based on the needs of the time. Current activities focus on increasing the visibility of the needs of children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, In Georgia there are over 11,000 children in foster care and here in Gwinnett County we have an average of 380 children in foster care at any given time.; and

WHEREAS, The goal of Foster Care is family reunification, as we know that healthy families raise healthy kids, who go on to lead healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, Foster families are members of the community who open their homes to children of all ages with all sorts of unique backgrounds and situations but recognize that all children have a common need for love, stability and support as they grow; and

WHEREAS, While these situations can be difficult, having strong community support drastically increases the success of the Foster Care System and ultimately leads to health and healing for these children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Supporting foster care can take on many forms to include: Taking an educational class to learn about becoming a foster parent, a respite family or a supporting mentor. Volunteering or financially supporting local nonprofits that serve foster kids and their families. Providing a meal or letter of encouragement for a foster family. Coaching and volunteering for programs that have foster kids participating to provide an additional example of a healthy role model and caring adult in the lives of these kids.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Sugar Hill, do hereby proclaim May as **Foster Care Awareness Month** in the City of Sugar Hill and encourage all citizens to lead the way for other communities in how we work together to utilize our resources and unique giftings to help support our community's foster children, foster families and biological families.

So proclaimed this 8th day of May, 2023.

Brandon Hembree, Mayor

Marc Cohen, Mayor Pro Tem

Taylor Anderson, Council Member

Alvin Hicks, Council Member

Mason Roszel, Council Member

Jenn Thatcher, Council Member