

**PROCLAMATION
TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER 2021
AS NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH
IN THE CITY OF TROY**

WHEREAS, Celebrated in September, National Kinship Care Month recognizes and celebrates the grandparents, aunts, uncles, relatives, and non-relatives who care for children when they cannot safely remain with their parents; and

WHEREAS, When children are unable to live with their parents, it is critical that they live with someone they know and trust. This helps to create a sense of security, community, and cultural identity and can reduce the trauma of being removed from their home; and

WHEREAS, Kinship care refers to circumstances where grandparents, extended family members, and other adults with family-like relationships with children take on the primary caregiving role when biological parents are unable to do so; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, not all children who are removed from their parents have an opportunity to live with their kin. **National Kinship Care Month** is a reminder of the important work of keeping children connected to their kin. Additionally, it is a great time to thank the caregivers who are supporting children both inside and outside of the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, Grandparents raising grandchildren and other family members serving as a child's primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, is the stable foundation of our community when birth parents are absent.

WHEREAS, According to Generations United, there are more than 66,000 grandparents and Kinship Caregivers in Michigan; and according to statistics from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, there are 5,727 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Oakland County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Troy hereby recognizes **September 2021 as National Kinship Care Month** because nothing is more precious than the growth and development of our children and every young person deserves a safe, loving, and stable home; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Troy joins with Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, the only service provider in our area with resources for kinship caregivers, and calls upon our citizens, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recognize the grandparents and other family members stepping up to care for children when they cannot safely remain with their parents.

Presented this 27th day of September 2021.