

Office of the City Commission

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Kinship Care refers to the care of children by relatives or close family friends, providing them with love, stability, and a sense of belonging when their biological parents are unable to do so; and

WHEREAS, millions of children across the United States are being raised in kinship care arrangements, which help to preserve family connections and cultural heritage, offering a nurturing environment that supports the emotional and physical well-being of the child; and

WHEREAS, Kinship Caregivers, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and close family friends, often step in to provide care with little to no notice, making significant personal sacrifices to ensure the safety and stability of these children; and

WHEREAS, Kinship Caregivers often face unique challenges, including financial strain, legal hurdles, and the need for support services, yet they provide this care out of deep love and commitment to the children in their lives; and

WHEREAS, communities and organizations across the nation recognize the importance of supporting Kinship Caregivers through resources, advocacy, and services to help them navigate the complexities of their caregiving roles; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Services Council of Broward County since 2018 has served 2,827 kinship families, providing essential services such as temporary custody, adoption services, assessments and referrals, power of attorney, and guardianship advocacy; and

WHEREAS, National Kinship Care Awareness Month is an opportunity to raise awareness, celebrate the dedication of Kinship Caregivers, and promote the development of policies and practices that support kinship families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ROSS, Mayor of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, and the City Commission, do hereby proclaim September 2024 as National Kinship Care Awareness Month and I encourage all citizens to join in recognizing and supporting the vital role that Kinship Caregivers play in our communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, to be affixed on this 17th day of September, 2024.

GREG ROSS
Mayor, City of Cooper City