WHEREAS, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, family is the very foundation of our communities and our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in the city of Norfolk, there are 235 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family; and

WHEREAS, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives; and

WHEREAS, foster, kinship and adoptive families, who open their homes and hearts and support children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect thereby launching young people into successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS, dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a greater need for more foster families; and

WHEREAS, we are thankful for the numerous individuals and organizations for their valuable contribution to increasing public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care, as well as the enduring, steadfast devotion of foster parents, and those working in the public foster care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenneth Alexander, Mayor of the City of Norfolk, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as

FOSTER CARE MONTH

in the City of Norfolk, urge all citizens to recognize the commitment of our foster families as they lend their strength to our most vulnerable children and to encourage all citizens to get involved through foster care, volunteering, or mentoring to change a child's life.

Given under my hand this 5th day of May 2019.

Kenneth Cooper Alexander, MAYOR