

MOTION

Every child needs a loving, supportive and nurturing family. Sadly, in the United States, there are 400,540 children in the foster care system with 104,236 children ready and waiting to be adopted. In California, there are 55,851 children in the foster care system with over 13,178 children ready and waiting to be adopted. In Los Angeles County, there are over 18,000 children in the foster care system with over 500 of them ready and waiting to be adopted.

Studies have found that three-quarters of foster youth perform below grade level and less than 45 percent of foster youth graduate from high school. Studies have also found that foster students experience a higher rate of school mobility, where 1 in 10 students in foster care attend three or more schools during the school year.

Additionally, housing instability and/or homelessness in early adulthood is well documented for children who have spent time in the foster care system. Nationally, 14 - 36 percent of former foster youth have spent time being homeless within the first few years of leaving care and in California, 65% of youth who were emancipated from the foster care system have an imminent housing need. Without a permanent family safety net, foster children face enormous challenges.

The City of Los Angeles's website: [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org) is the main portal in which residents can access public services and receive important communication. The City's website is also an important tool to facilitate instant and direct access to public resources for residents, and can be utilized to encourage people to consider adopting a child.

In order to bring greater awareness about the need for permanent and loving homes for children in foster care and to assist those interested navigate through the adoption process, the City of Los Angeles should establish a hyperlink on City's website that asks the question, "Have You Thought About Adoption?" The link will provide immediate access to California Department of Social Services Children and Family Service Division's website ([www.childsworld.ca.gov](http://www.childsworld.ca.gov)), and Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services' website ([www.lacdcfs.org/shareyourheartla](http://www.lacdcfs.org/shareyourheartla)).

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Information Technology Agency to establish a hyperlink on the City's website directing users to the California Department of Social Services Children and Family Service Division's website and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services' website and other public and private sector adoption agencies to provide information on making the adopting process smoother and easier to navigate.

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