

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE

APRIL 2022

- WHEREAS,** APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH, AND NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK IS CELEBRATED APRIL 17-23, 2022; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE PROVIDES REPRESENTATION FOR ABUSED, ABANDONED, AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN DEPENDENCY COURT PROCEEDINGS, AND PROVIDES THE HIGHEST QUALITY COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO PROTECT EACH CHILD'S RIGHTS AND BEST INTERESTS; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE CURRENT BEST INTERESTS MODEL OF REPRESENTATION BY THE FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE IS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS A BEST PRACTICE BECAUSE IT USES A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM MODEL THAT INCLUDES AN ATTORNEY, A CERTIFIED CHILD ADVOCATE MANAGER, AND A TRAINED VOLUNTEER OR PRO BONO ATTORNEY; AND
- WHEREAS,** FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, THE FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE HAS PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN FLORIDA WITH AN ADULT FROM THEIR COMMUNITY WHO IS A CONSISTENT, POSITIVE PRESENCE IN THE CHILD'S LIFE; AND
- WHEREAS,** FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, THE FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE HAS PROVIDED INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN THROUGHOUT FLORIDA. IN 2021, THE FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE HAD MORE THAN 13,000 VOLUNTEERS ADVOCATING FOR MORE THAN 37,000 CHILDREN IN FLORIDA; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM IN THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN BROWARD COUNTY OVERSEES A VOLUNTEER BASE OF OVER 520 PEOPLE; AND THOSE VOLUNTEERS ADVOCATE FOR MORE THAN 1,500 CHILDREN IN BROWARD COUNTY; AND
- WHEREAS,** GUARDIAN AD LITEM PRO BONO ATTORNEYS AND VOLUNTEERS SACRIFICE THEIR TIME AND MILEAGE; A SAVINGS WORTH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AND PROVIDE AN INVALUABLE SERVICE TO DEPENDENCY COURT JUDGES; AND
- WHEREAS,** STUDIES SHOW THAT CHILDREN WITH A GUARDIAN AD LITEM ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE ADOPTED, HALF AS LIKELY TO RE-ENTER FOSTER CARE, LESS LIKELY TO SPEND TIME IN LONG-TERM FOSTER CARE, MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A PERMANENCY PLAN, AND MORE LIKELY TO PERFORM WELL IN SCHOOL; NOW
- THEREFORE,** JOSH LEVY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, AND THE HOLLYWOOD CITY COMMISSION, HEREBY RECOGNIZE:

THE FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE

IN HOLLYWOOD, AND ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TIME, ENERGY AND EFFORT THESE EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERS GIVE TO OUR CITY AND ITS RESIDENTS.

SIGNED THIS 20th DAY OF
APRIL 2022 AT
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

MAYOR JOSH LEVY
VICE MAYOR CARYL S. SHUHAM
COMMISSIONER LINDA HILL ANDERSON
COMMISSIONER TRACI L. CALLARI
COMMISSIONER ADAM GRUBER
COMMISSIONER KEVIN D. BIEDERMAN
COMMISSIONER LINDA SHERWOOD