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**Committee:** City Council

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***WHEREAS***, more than 104,000 children in the United States are in the foster care system and waiting to be adopted. Adoption provides a unique opportunity to improve children's lives while enriching the lives of adoptive parents, their extended families and their communities and;

***WHEREAS***, in 1976, Gov. Michael Dukakis promulgated an Adoption Week in Massachusetts and Presidents Gerald Ford and then Ronald Reagan brought Adoption Week to the national arena. President Bill Clinton extended the effort to the full month of November; and,

***WHEREAS***, National Adoption Month increases awareness of the joys of adoption, the needs of foster children and foster families, gives children who are still waiting for adoption a voice, celebrates the bond that unites adoptive parents with their sons and daughters and recommit to providing every child with the care and security that will nurture their development and well-being; and,

***WHEREAS***, the **Family Hope Connection**, a licensed adoption and foster care agency under the umbrella of the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Pittsburgh, provides comprehensive services including domestic adoption, support for international adoption, birth parent services, home studies, post-adoption services and also spearheads initiatives for children in need of permanency, for families considering adoption programs and families who have adopted throughout the region; and,

***WHEREAS***, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Pittsburgh has operated **Family Hope Connection** for 16 successful years with a professional and devoted staff who provide compassionate support and guidance and understands the life changing experience that adoption is for all involved.

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby congratulate and commend **Family Hope Connection** of Jewish Family and Children's Services of Pittsburgh for their dedicated, impactful and passionate work which is recognized during National Adoption Month in the month of November 2013 ; and,

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare November 19, 2013 to be "**FAMILY HOPE CONNECTION**" in the City of Pittsburgh.