

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YVONNE B. BURKE AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH**

June 7, 2006

There are currently more than 800 children in foster care under Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) supervision awaiting a loving adoptive family. 32% of the waiting children are African American. Although this disparate ratio is also a nationwide trend, through specialized efforts, LA County seeks to reduce the ratio locally by accelerating its recruitment of adoptive families for African American children. As is the case for most children under the supervision of DCFS, African American children needing permanent families may be older with special medical, developmental or emotional needs. Throughout June and July, DCFS will host a series of events aimed at recruiting more adoptive families for African American children, while educating the community on resources available to assist adoptive families.

As part of this campaign, DCFS:

- Created a media campaign and will distribute posters within the community.
- Held its annual "Black Adoption Festival" on June 3, 2006, an event highly successful in matching families with waiting African American children.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

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KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

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- Will host a new event in July 2006 called “Church Covenant for Waiting Children,” to engage the faith-based community in helping to find families for African American children.
- Will distribute culturally-sensitive literature at these events to equip adoptive families with information regarding all available LA County financial and other supportive services.

The Department should continue to use innovative methods to find potential adoptive families and these efforts, once proven successful, should be applied to all communities across the County of Los Angeles, as appropriate. Special efforts on behalf of vulnerable children are to be applauded and innovation such as this must be encouraged for the benefit of all our waiting children.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Declare June 2006 as Black Adoption Month to raise adoption awareness for focused recruitment of new families for waiting African American children; and waives the parking fees for the use of Kenneth Hahn Park held on June 3, 2006 Black Adoption Festival.

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