



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AS PART OF 'CITY HALL IN YOUR BOROUGH,' ACS COMMISSIONER HANSELL, ALONG WITH NY FOUNDLING, HONOR STATEN ISLAND FOSTER MOM OF THIRTY YEARS: LIZZIE BURROW**

*SI Foster Mom Has Parented Approx. Twenty NYC Youth, Many With Terminal Illness & Special Needs; Just Last Month, Ms. Burrow Formalized Adoption of 22-Year Old, Crystal*

*Commissioner Hansell Presents Mayoral Letter of Recognition to Ms. Burrow For Her 30 Years of Providing a Loving Home to Some of NYC's Most Vulnerable Children*

Staten Island, NY – Today, the Administration for Children's Services Commissioner, David A. Hansell, along with the New York Foundling's Vice President of Specialized Services and Placement, Liyan Bao, honored a beloved Staten Island foster mom by presenting her with a mayoral letter of recognition for her longstanding commitment to New York City's most vulnerable children.

Over the past thirty years, Lizzie Burrow has worked with New York Foundling – a nonprofit organization that provides services for underserved children – taking in more than twenty children, many of whom have suffered terminal illness or have special needs. The Foundling reaches 30,000 children and families each year across the five boroughs, surrounding counties and Puerto Rico.

Earlier this month, Ms. Burrow formally adopted 22-year old Crystal Smith. Asked why she became a mother again, after having two children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren of her own, Ms. Burrow said "because nothing is sweeter than being called 'Mama' from a child who truly means it."

"I am thrilled to honor Lizzie Burrow, a foster mom from Staten Island, who has gone above and beyond in her commitment to providing a loving, safe and healthy home for children in need. My deepest gratitude goes to our foster parents from all walks of life who have opened their hearts and their doors to providing loving homes for our most vulnerable children. Ms. Burrow is nothing short of a hero, not only to the kids she fostered, but to all of New York City," **said ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell.** "ACS is dedicated to working hand-in-hand with NYC's foster parents, provider agencies, community leaders, local and state agencies, faith based organizations and others to recruit, support and train foster parents."

**New York Foundling CEO Bill Baccaglioni stated,** "With there being such a tremendous need for more loving families to open their homes to foster children, we are incredibly pleased to work with people like Ms. Burrow who experience the joy of fostering and taking in multiple children in

need over the years.” He continues, “Through adoption, foster families are doing more than providing a forever home—they are providing long-term stability, consistency and unconditional love. It has been a privilege to see the special relationship and connect between Ms. Burrow and Crystal. “

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