

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021 AS INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, infant mortality – the death of a child before the first birthday – is a widely accepted measure of a community’s well-being and continues to be a major social crisis and health care concern in our state and county; and

**WHEREAS**, provisional data, subject to change, shows the overall infant mortality rate in Palm Beach County in 2020, at 3.8 per 1,000 live births and 54 deaths, marking the lowest rate and number of deaths recorded since at least 1989 and also the lowest in the state among urban counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the infant mortality rate for Blacks (including Haitians) in Palm Beach County in 2020 was the lowest among all urban counties at 6.3, down from 8.4 per 1,000 births in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the racial disparity gap still persists for children in their first year of life in the county, though it narrowed slightly in 2020 from the previous year, meaning Blacks (including Haitians) had higher infant mortality rates (6.3 per 1,000 births) than Whites (including Hispanics) at 2.6 per 1,000 births; and

**WHEREAS**, racism has a devastating effect on the health of women of color, and that of their babies, documented in a U.S. National Institutes of Health review of scientific studies that confirms a strong link between racial discrimination and poor birth outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, no infants deaths were attributed to unintentional suffocation or strangulation in bed in the county in 2020, the first time since 2007 when no such deaths were recorded, and down from four such deaths in 2019 and nine in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, while specific causes of the county’s low rate and number of deaths cannot be determined, pre-conception and inter-conception health and early, consistent prenatal care are proven factors influencing premature birth and low birthweight; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring expecting families have access to health care and supportive services will help reduce infant deaths and racial disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, Palm Beach County recognizes the importance of designating a time devoted to increasing the public’s awareness that all new parents deserve a healthy, safe and strong future for their baby;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**, assembled in regular session this 23rd day of September 2021, that the month of September 2021 in Palm Beach County is hereby declared:

### **September 2021 - Infant Mortality Awareness Month**

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Council Member Elisa Cramer, who moved its adoption.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Vincent Goodman, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Proclamation - Infant Mortality Awareness Month  
September 2021  
Page 2

Thomas Bean	YES
Mike Burke	ABSENT
Elisa Cramer	YES
Vincent Goodman	YES
Kathleen Kroll	YES
Jose Luis Rodriguez, Esq.	YES
Maria Sachs	ABSENT
Debra Robinson, M.D.	ABSENT
Thomas P. Weber	YES

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 23rd day of September, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

DocuSigned by:  
*Debra Gotlib*  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
0EDB273FD40B401...

Debra E. Gotlib  
Attorney for Children's Services Council  
of Palm Beach County

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL  
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

DocuSigned by:  
*Thomas Bean*  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
0AF6A0B47B64DE...

Thomas Bean, Chair

DocuSigned by:  
*Lisa Williams-Taylor*  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
EEFEC04CB70E497

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer