

Proclamation

Proclaiming the Month of September 2020 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, the overall infant mortality rate in Palm Beach County in 2019 was the lowest in the state among urban counties, equaling the overall rate of Miami-Dade with an overall rate of 4.7 per 1,000 live births; and

WHEREAS, the number of infant deaths in the county also decreased slightly compared to the previous year, with 69 deaths in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Black infant mortality rate in Palm Beach County in 2019 was the lowest among all other urban counties, dropping slightly from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, the racial disparity gap still persists for children in their first year of life in the county, increasing slightly in 2019 from the previous year, meaning higher infant mortality rates for Blacks (including Haitians) than whites (including Hispanics); 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, four infants deaths were attributed to unintentional suffocation or strangulation in bed in the county in 2019, a sharp reduction from nine such unsafe sleep deaths in 2018; and

WHEREAS, 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 10th day of September 2020, that the month of September 2020, in Palm Beach County, is hereby declared:

September 2020 - Infant Mortality Awareness Month

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Council Member _____ who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member _____.

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 10th day of September, 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

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Debra Gotlib
BY: _____
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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: _____
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Thomas Bean, Chair

DocuSigned by:
Lisa Williams-Taylor
BY: _____
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Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer