PROCLAMATION
DECLARING MAY 2019 AS
TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, in Palm Beach County during 2018, there were 585 births to teen mothers ages 15-19, the fewest in four years, and during that same year, about one-seventh (86) of those births were to teen mothers who already had at least one child, according to provisional early data; and

WHEREAS, the overall teen birth rate (14.9 per 1,000 girls) in Palm Beach County remains lower than the overall teen birth rate (16.7 per 1,000) in the state; and

WHEREAS, the rate (18.5) for births to African-American teen mothers ages 15-19 in Palm Beach County remains higher than the rate (14.5) for white teen mothers; and

WHEREAS, the African-American teen birth rate has dropped 49 percent since 2011 while the white teen birth rate has dropped 26 percent, resulting in a decrease in the racial disparity of teen birth rates overall in the county; and

WHEREAS, the overall repeat birth percentage (14.7 percent) in Palm Beach County rose slightly from last year, it remains lower than the overall percentage (15.0 percent) in the state; and

WHEREAS, children of teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birthweight; and

WHEREAS, only about half of teen mothers earn a high school diploma by age 22, compared to 90 percent of women without a teen birth, and less than 2 percent of mothers who have children before 18 have a college degree by age 30. Teen pregnancy is closely linked to a number of critical social issues such as poverty, educational attainment, involvement in criminal justice and child welfare systems, and more; and

WHEREAS, nearly all teens and adults say that reducing teen pregnancy is a very effective way to reduce the high school dropout rate and improve academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, while the teen pregnancy rate in Palm Beach County in 2018 was the lowest rate in more than 20 years and more than 37 percent lower than 2011, the vast majority of both teens and adults agree that schools, medical providers, faith-based and community organizations should do more to prevent teen pregnancy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY that the following will be observed:
May 2019 – Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Council Member Thomas Bean who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jose Luis Rodriguez, Esq. and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 25th day of April, 2019.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: Thomas A. Sheehan, Ill
Attorney for Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

BY: Thomas P. Weber, Chair

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