Proclamation

Proclaiming the Month of May 2020
The National Month to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

WHEREAS, in Palm Beach County during 2019, there were 586 births to teen mothers ages 15-19, the fewest in five years, and during that same year, about one-eighth (76) 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 (16.1 per 1,000) in the state; and

WHEREAS, the rate (19.8) for births to African-American teen mothers ages 15-19 in Palm Beach County remains higher than the rate (13.5) for white teen mothers; and

WHEREAS, the African-American teen birth rate has dropped 47 percent since 2011 while the white teen birth rate has dropped 34 percent, resulting in a decrease in the racial disparity of teen birth rates overall in the county over the past nine years; and

WHEREAS, the overall repeat birth percentage (12.9 percent) in Palm Beach County dropped from last year to the lowest percentage in at least seven years, and it remains lower than the overall percentage (14.0 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 births 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 births is a very effective way to reduce the high school dropout rate and improve academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, while the teen birth rate in Palm Beach County in 2019 remained the lowest rate in more than 20 years and more than 38 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY that the following will be observed:

May 2020 – Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Council Member Tom Weber who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member Melissa McKinlay.

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 23rd day of April, 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY:
Debra E. Gotlib
Attorney for Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County

CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

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