WHEREAS, in Palm Beach County during 2018, there were 1,460 premature births, a rate of 9.7 percent of all births, an increase from 9.4 percent in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the rate of premature births increased among most racial and ethnic groups, except among White non-Hispanic women and Haitian women; and

WHEREAS, in Florida during 2018, there were 22,680 premature births, a rate of 10.2 percent which was the same as 2017; and

WHEREAS, the small increase in the percentage of pre-term births in Palm Beach County last year makes the rate the second-highest in the past six years, while the rate statewide remained the highest rate in the past six years; and

WHEREAS, on average, the medical cost to care for a premature baby is nearly $50,000 – 12 times more than that of a healthy baby; and

WHEREAS, babies born too early and too small are at risk for life-long health complications that can impact their growth, development, social-emotional health and academic success; and

WHEREAS, Children’s Services Council funds programs that target healthy births, such as the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Entry Agency, Healthy Beginnings Nurses, Centering Pregnancy and Community Voice; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, assembled in regular session this 24th day of October 2019, that the month of November 2019, in Palm Beach County, is hereby declared as Prematurity Awareness Month.

The Chairman thereupon declared this Proclamation duly passed and adopted this 24th day of October 2019.

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 P. Weber, Chair

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