

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

July 21, 2020

**Proclaiming World Breastfeeding Week, Indigenous Breastfeeding Week, Asian Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week & Black Breastfeeding Week 2020**

Breastfeeding reduces the risks of both acute and chronic health conditions for both mothers and babies. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 6 months of exclusive breastfeeding, and continued breastfeeding for as long as is mutually desired. Given the importance of infant nutrition, the American Academy of Pediatrics has proclaimed breastfeeding a public health issue and not only a lifestyle choice. The unique events of 2020 have placed us in a sensitive position. BreastfeedLA unequivocally maintains that during the COVID-19 pandemic breastfeeding should be encouraged as a vital public health intervention at a community level and supported for every parent/baby dyad interested and willing at an individual level. Practitioners, parents, and community partners should continue to be made aware the of the unparalleled immunological, nutritional, and psychosocial benefits of breastfeeding and human milk for infants as well as the social-emotional benefits of breastfeeding for the lactating person, particularly in states of emergency.

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

Babies that exclusively breastfeed for the first six months of life have better long-term health outcomes, with lowered risk for ear infections, atopic dermatitis, gastrointestinal infections, asthma, diabetes, childhood leukemia, SIDS and childhood obesity. High breastfeeding initiation rates show that most mothers in the United States want to breastfeed and start out doing so. However, despite the recommendation to breastfeed exclusively for about the first 6 months, less than 50% of infants are exclusively breastfed through 3 months and about 25% were exclusively breastfed through 6 months. In addition, infant health outcomes differ substantially across racial/ethnic lines. In LA County, 57.2% of African American babies, 60.1% of Hispanic and 57.2% of Asian babies are exclusively breastfed compared to 78.2% of white babies. The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding noted that even while researchers control for family income or education level, breastfeeding rates for infants of color are still lower than for White infants at birth, 6 months, and 12 months.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors Proclaim the week of August 1-7, 2020 as World Breastfeeding Week in Los Angeles County, declare the week of August 10-14, 2020 as Asian Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week, declare the week of August 17-23, 2020 as Indigenous Breastfeeding Week, and declare the week of August 24-31, 2020 as Black Breastfeeding Week, with the goals of advancing breastfeeding as part of good nutrition, health protection, food security, and poverty reduction.

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JH: ca