

**Proclaim Black Maternal Health Week in Los Angeles County**

“Black Maternal Health Week” (April 11-17, 2021) was established four years ago as a national, weeklong amplification of Black voices regarding the maternal health care crisis in the Black community.<sup>1</sup> Locally, the week is celebrated by bringing attention to reproductive and birth justice and the importance of reducing the rate of Black maternal mortality in Los Angeles County (County).

In the County, Black women die due to perinatal complications at four times the rate of White women and Black infants die before their first birthday at more than three times the rate of White infants. High mortality rates among Black women and Black infants span across income and education levels, as well as geography, and place a glaring spotlight on the intersection of historical and structural racism, gender oppression, and inequities in the social determinants of health that contribute to disproportionate stress on Black women/birthing people and result in unequal health outcomes that harm both them and their babies.

- M O R E -

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<sup>1</sup> <https://blackmamasmatter.org/bmhw/>

**MOTION**

MITCHELL	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

Motion by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell  
March 23, 2021  
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The Departments of Public Health and Health Services, alongside First 5 LA, launched the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative to address birth outcome inequities. The response to this crisis requires stakeholders of all kinds, with Black women in leadership roles, coming together to advance change, practice anti-racism, and ensure access to high quality, comprehensive, culturally relevant reproductive and maternal health care.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Proclaim the week of April 11-17, 2021 as “Black Maternal Health Week” and within that week, April 16, 2021 “The Day of the Black Infant” in Los Angeles County.

**# # #**

(YV/HS)