

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

June 27, 2023

Proclaim June 2023 as Fatherhood Well-being Month in Los Angeles County

House Resolution 36, introduced by Assemblymember Mike Gipson, aims to annually declare the month of June as Fatherhood Well-being Month. In 2021, there were 2,174,428 children, 0-17 years old, living in Los Angeles County (County)¹. For each of those children, there is a father in their lives, existing in many forms such as stepfathers, foster fathers, relative caregivers, and father figures. Fathers are integral to families and provide a strong foundation for educational success and emotional well-being, which build pathways to economic mobility. The well-being of fathers is critical to active involvement and the ability to be a positive presence in the lives of children and families.

The data demonstrates that involved fathers leads to increased childhood outcomes, such as school performance, physical and emotional development, and engagement in positive social activities. Additionally, father involvement significantly supports the family, leading to healthier births, lower risk of postpartum depression, and reduced parenting stress. Furthermore, involved fathers foster supportive and caring relationships, thereby building safe and nurturing bonds, reversing the effects of toxic stress.

Fatherhood well-being is comprehensive, which includes physical and mental health, healthy relationships, parenting skills, financial stability, and quality time with

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children. Physically healthy and mentally sound fathers can discover strengths and develop skills that create enduring success for themselves and their families. Yet the historical impact and harm of systemic racism on fathers of color requires targeted and meaningful investments to advance equity across educational, economic, housing, justice, and social institutions. According to the Vera Institute of Justice², 8% of the County identifies as Black/ African American yet account for 29% of the County's incarcerated population; 49% of the County's population identifies as Latinx but account for 57% of the County's incarcerated population. The over-representation of people of color in the criminal legal system disrupts family stability and hinders fathers from remaining present in their children's lives.

The County can advance the well-being of fathers by providing resources designed to ensure that they are healthy, thriving, and empowered in the lives of their children, leading to socioeconomic stability and inclusive communities Countywide. Fatherhood well-being can be supported through a comprehensive fatherhood program that builds and strengthens father-child relationships through an integrated network of supportive services.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Declare the month of June as Fatherhood Well-being Month throughout the County of Los Angeles in support of House Resolution 36, introduced by Assemblymember Mike Gipson.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to report back to the Board in writing within 180 days identifying service gaps and recommendations to improve public social service access for fathers.
 - a. Convene community stakeholders and relevant County departments including the Departments of Public Social Services, Child Support Services, Public Health, Mental Health, Children and Family Services, Economic Opportunity, and the Anti-Racism, Diversity, & Inclusion Initiative, to discuss ways in which the County can better serve fathers to access public benefits and remain involved in their children's lives.

3. Direct the Director of the Department of Public Health to target education and awareness related to common health issues affecting men. Services and partnerships can include:
 - a. Free health screenings for men, including blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose, and prostate exams.
 - b. Collaboration with community-based organizations for care coordination to connect men with healthcare providers and resources in the community.
 - c. A public health awareness campaign focused on men's health and well-being.

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(ME/KD/YV/JJ)

1 Kids Data. (2021). Data by Region. <https://www.kidsdata.org/region/364/los-angeles-county/summary#6/demographics>

2 Vera Institute of Justice. (2023, February 14). Incarceration Trends. https://trends.vera.org/state/CA/county/los_angeles_county