AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL April 9, 2024

Proclaiming April 11-17, 2024 as Black Maternal Health Week and April 16, 2024, as the Day of the Black Infant in Los Angeles County

"Black Maternal Health Week" (April 11-17), was established by the *Black Mamas Matter Alliance* in 2018 to bring local attention to the national maternal health care crisis in the Black community, and to promote education and advocacy around the experiences of Black mothers/birthing persons. This week in April is celebrated by centering Black mothers/birthing persons, families, and the systems of care working on their behalf toward joyous and healthy pregnancies and births. The theme for this year's Black Maternal Health Week is "Our Bodies Still Belong to Us: Reproductive Justice Now!"

In Los Angeles County (County), Black women are four times more likely to die due to pregnancy-related complications than White women, and Black infants are three times more likely to die before their first birthday than White infants. High mortality rates among Black women and Black infants span across income and education levels, as well as geographical locations. The intersections of historical and structural racism, gender oppression, and inequities in the social determinants of health contribute to disproportionate stress and trauma on Black women and subsequent unequal health outcomes.

In partnership with community providers and advocates, the Department of Public Health and First 5 LA lead the County African American Infant and Maternal Mortality

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	MOTION
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(AAIMM) Initiative. Established in 2018, the AAIMM Initiative addresses birth outcome inequities and strives to improve pregnancy and birth outcomes by bringing together a unique partnership of County leaders with local community- and faith-based organizations, clinicians, doulas, midwives, health care plans, funders and, most importantly, the Black/African American community.

In addition, the AAIMM Initiative seeks to reduce women's exposure to stressors in the social environment, block the pathway from social stress to physiological stress, intervene as early as possible if, and when stress takes a toll on health, and create infrastructure to achieve healthy birthing outcomes. The AAIMM Initiative includes a range of direct services, support, and funding for communities, with collaborative bodies playing a vital role in guiding its work and advocacy. The response to this crisis requires all stakeholders, 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. It is imperative that joyous and healthy births are achieved.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim the week of April 11 through 17, 2024, as "Black Maternal Health Week," and April 16, 2024, as "The Day of the Black Infant" throughout Los Angeles County (County).
2. Direct the Director of the Department of Public Health to report back to the Board in writing within 60 days with plans to activate internal and community stakeholders to implement interventions and support current programs and services known to reduce racial disparities in perinatal outcomes, such as Community Action Teams, Doula Program expansion, Fatherhood Engagement, Guaranteed Income pilot, and promotion of other financial relief.
    a. The report back should also include plans to expand and outreach these resources to residents in need and how data collection can improve outreach and engagement throughout the County.
3. Direct all County Departments to stand in solidarity with the County African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Initiative and its Community

Partners in eliminating racism and bias in health care and related services and resources.

4. Encourage residents to learn about available services and resources, as well as ways to get involved by visiting AAIMM's website at **blackinfantsandfamiliesla.org** or social media **@blackinfantsandfamiliesla** and https://www.facebook.com/BlackInfantsandFamilies.
5. Encourage residents to participate in upcoming events occurring in the Second District during Black Maternal Health Week, including a community baby shower, doula meet-and-greets, and a Black Mamas Tour. Residents can learn more at www.blackinfantsandfamiliesla.org.

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