

Resolution No. 491-2023

By Council Member Howse

FOR ADOPTION
April 17, 2023

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Designating April 11- April 17, 2023, as Black Maternal Health Week in Cleveland and recognizing Black Birth Matters, a collaborative partnership between Birthing Beautiful Communities, Pregnant with Possibilities Resource Center and Village of Healing for their ongoing efforts to raise awareness for Black maternal and infant health.

WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week is a week-long campaign founded and led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance to build awareness, activism, and community-building to amplify the voices, perspectives and lived experiences of Black Mamas and birthing people; and

WHEREAS, the official theme for Black Maternal Health Week 2023: “Our Bodies Belong to Us: Restoring Black Autonomy and Joy!” to highlight and center culturally-congruent practices with a focus on Black Midwifery care and full-spectrum Black-led Doula care as sound, evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has among the highest maternal mortality rates in the developed world with 26.4 deaths per live birth, and the Centers for Disease Control estimates that nearly 60% of pregnancy related deaths are preventable; and

WHEREAS, in Ohio, Black women and birthing people are more than two times likely to die and experience near death from birth-related complications that have been exacerbated by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this phenomenon is a result of a multiplicity of root causes, including racism, social determinants of health, economic disparities and gaps in healthcare coverage, and amidst growing cases of clear neglect in care in hospital systems immediately after labor and delivery; and

WHEREAS, Black women are disproportionately more likely to suffer from Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders, such as postpartum depression, in isolation and without access to the necessary healthcare resources to address it; and

WHEREAS, gaps in access to basic reproductive healthcare, like family planning, abortion and contraception access, sexually transmitted infections screening and counseling, leaves Black women and birthing people at higher risks for health implications from pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Black-led doula and midwifery care is a sound, evidence-based form of healthcare for Black women and birthing people, providing life-saving services and reducing mortality rates among these vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, to adequately address racial inequities within the City, these maternal health disparities must be acknowledged and addressed, providing more affordable and accessible healthcare resources to Black women; and,

WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week is celebrated annually to build awareness, activism, and community-building to amplify the voices, perspectives and lived experiences of Black women and birthing people and to encourage appropriate educational and advocacy activities; and

WHEREAS, Black Birth Matters (BBM) is a collaborative partnership between Birthing Beautiful Communities, Pregnant with Possibilities Resource Center and Village of Healing with the goal to collectively achieve optimal birth outcomes in the Black community; and

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WHEREAS, as Black-led and Black-serving organizations, BBM creates an ecosystem to help the Greater Cleveland community understand the role each organization plays in maternal and infant health and ensure a holistic approach to care and health for Black women and Black families; and

WHEREAS, each organization provides unique programs and services in healthcare and social services that are vital to the collective goal of mitigating health disparities for Black families living in the Greater Cleveland region; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council designates April 11- April 17, 2023 as Black Maternal Health Week in Cleveland and recognizes Black Birth Matters, a collaborative partnership between Birthing Beautiful Communities, Pregnant with Possibilities Resource Center and Village of Healing for their ongoing efforts to raise awareness for Black maternal and infant health.

Section 2. That the Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Black Birth Matters.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SH:rns
4/17/2023

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REPORT
after second Reading

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READ FIRST TIME

as referred to

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on APRIL 17, 2023

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME