

Resolution No. 507-2026

Council Members Howse-Jones

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Honoring New Voices for Reproductive Justice and celebrating Black Maternal Health Week 2026 from April 11th to 17th, 2026 with the theme “Rooted in Justice and Joy”.

FOR ADOPTION
April 13, 2026

WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW), held annually from April 11th to 17th, was created by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance and in 2026 marks its ten-year anniversary as a national call to uplift the experiences, leadership, and solutions of Black Mamas and birthing people; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 theme, “Rooted in Justice & Joy,” honors the power of a collective movement committed to nurturing thriving families and shaping a liberated future grounded in justice, healing, and joy; and

WHEREAS, this milestone year recognizes the strength and resilience of Black-led perinatal, maternal, and reproductive health organizations that have cultivated change, healing, and community care while confronting the enduring legacies of systemic oppression, reproductive injustices, and health inequities that continue to impact Black Mamas and birthing people; and

WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week calls attention to the urgent need for equitable, high-quality care across the full perinatal and reproductive health continuum, including preconception care, prenatal care, labor and delivery, postpartum care, and family planning services, so that ALL Black Mamas and birthing people can thrive; and

WHEREAS, investing in the perinatal, maternal, and reproductive health workforce is essential to ensuring that healthcare systems are equipped to provide culturally grounded, community-centered, and justice-oriented care; and

WHEREAS, #BMHW26 celebrates the leadership, expertise, and innovation of Black community-based organizations as the foundation for advancing equity and driving transformative, sustainable improvements in Black maternal health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, advancing collective action highlights the essential role of collaboration among Black-led organizations, advocates, healthcare providers, policymakers, and communities to shape policies, amplify solutions, and build a future where Black Mamas and birthing people experience dignity, safety, and joy; and

WHEREAS, New Voices for Reproductive Justice has demonstrated unwavering commitment to advancing the health, well-being, and liberation of Black women, femmes, girls, and gender-expansive people in Cleveland and across the region through advocacy, community organizing, leadership development, and reproductive justice programming; and

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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 hereby recognizes and honors New Voices for Reproductive Justice for its leadership and contributions to advancing reproductive justice and Black maternal health; and proudly joins communities across the nation in celebrating Black Maternal Health Week 2026 from April 11th to 17th, 2026 and affirms its commitment to supporting policies, partnerships, and investments that promote justice, equity, and joy for Black Mamas and birthing people.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to New Voices for Reproductive Justice, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to this organization as a token of Council's appreciation and support.

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.

SHJ:jho
4/13/2026

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**REPORT
after second Reading**

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READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

READ FIRST TIME
and referred to

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on APRIL 13, 2026

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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