



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
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Legislation Text

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Recognizing September 2024 as Infant Mortality Awareness Month and highlighting the ongoing disparities in maternal and infant health in Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, Infant mortality is defined as the death of a baby before its first birthday. Despite advancements in medical care, the infant mortality rate in Philadelphia remains alarmingly high, with 8.4 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to the national average 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births; and

WHEREAS, Racial disparities in infant mortality rates persist, with Black infants in Philadelphia dying at rates significantly higher than their white counterparts, due to factors such as low birth weight, preterm births, and inadequate access to healthcare; and

WHEREAS, The health of mothers is closely linked to infant mortality outcomes. Philadelphia's maternal mortality rate, particularly among Black women, is one of the highest in the country. From 2013 to 2018, Black women were 43% of all births in the City but tragically accounted for 73% of pregnancy-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, Maternal deaths among Black women are disproportionately caused by cardiovascular issues, embolisms, and infections. Through timely intervention and more equitably accessible, high quality healthcare, many of these deaths can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, Addressing these crises requires collective action to improve prenatal care, address systemic racism in healthcare, and ensure that all women-especially women of color-receive the support they need during and after pregnancy. Programs like the Philadelphia Maternal Mortality Review Committee and the Philly Joy Bank are steps in the right direction, working to tackle these disparities and improve health outcomes for both mothers and their babies; and

WHEREAS, Raising awareness about infant mortality is crucial to expanding access to resources, shaping public policy, and meaningfully engaging our community to address the underlying social determinants of health, including economic instability, housing insecurity, and unequal access to healthcare; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby recognize September 2024 as Infant Mortality Awareness Month, highlighting the need to confront these ongoing public health challenges and affirming our commitment to improving maternal and infant health for all Philadelphia residents.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Council encourages City leaders, healthcare providers, and community organizations to continue their vital work in reducing racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality, ensuring that every family has the opportunity to thrive.