

Resolution

ORDER NO. 2025-0350

DATE: April 1, 2025

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS§



BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 1st day of April, 2025 on motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by John Wiley Price, Commissioner of District 3, the following Resolution was adopted:

Black Maternal Health Week

WHEREAS, Over 80% of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women in the United States are 2.5 times more likely than their white counterparts to die from pregnancy-related causes. The preterm birth rate among babies born to Black birthing people is 1.4 times higher than the rate among all other babies. The Family Wellness Council seeks to establish collaborative partnerships across North Texas, engaging multiple sectors and focusing on health equity, improvement in maternal and infant health for Black caregivers, and providing high-quality support to both families and providers; and

WHEREAS, Black women are nearly twice as likely compared to their white counterparts to experience late or no prenatal care. They also suffer from life-threatening complications, known as maternal morbidities, at a rate twice that of their white counterparts. The high rates of maternal mortality among Black women span across income levels, education levels, socioeconomic status, access to prenatal care, and overall health—including mental health and substance use disorder status; and

WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week is an opportunity to acknowledge the tragic deaths of Black women in our state and across the country who lost their lives due to pregnancy-related complications. It raises awareness of the state's preventable disparities in Black maternal health outcomes. Black Maternal Health Week also serves as a time to stand in solidarity, recognizing that this issue affects Black mothers, *Indigenous* mothers, and other mothers of color—as well as their communities and practitioners—who all bear the weight of systemic bias. It is our responsibility to uplift community-based responses to this crisis and to promote initiatives aimed at reducing Black maternal morbidity and mortality; and

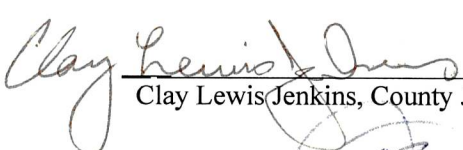
WHEREAS, Research indicates that Black women in Texas are more likely to experience serious complications during childbirth, such as preeclampsia, hemorrhage, and complications due to diabetes and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, Positive strides are being made to improve Black maternal health due to increased community engagement, better access to care, and advocacy for healthcare equity; and

WHEREAS, As we continue our work to make pregnancy and childbirth safe, dignified, and joyful for all, let us remember that healthcare should be a right and not a privilege. Let us give thanks to the extraordinary maternal healthcare workforce that serves its patients and their families every day. And let us unite in common cause to end the tragedy of maternal mortality once and for all. The Health Initiatives Workgroup seeks to reduce health disparities in our community through agency partnerships and culturally informed practices.

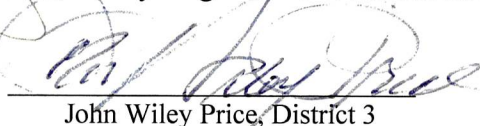
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Dallas County Commissioners Court, do hereby proclaim **April 11-17, 2025, as Black Maternal Health Week**, and together with the **Family Wellness Council Health Initiatives Workgroup**, call upon all citizens, legislators, elected officials, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, schools, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to improve maternal and child outcomes. We also urge all to advocate for the advancement of health equity through collaborative investments, thereby strengthening and improving the long-term outcomes necessary for families to thrive.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 1st day of April 2025.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Andrew Sommerman, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4