

A resolution by Supervisors Taylor (2) and Dimitrijevic to raise awareness regarding infant mortality in Milwaukee County, and to recognize the ongoing efforts of the City of Milwaukee to reduce infant mortality, including the "Strong Baby" campaign and the "Best Babies Zone" initiative, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, infant mortality refers to the death of a child prior to his or her first birthday; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 City of Milwaukee (the City) Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Report shows a three-year rolling average from 2012 to 2015 of an overall infant mortality rate (IMR) of 9.8 deaths per 1,000 births; and

WHEREAS, for comparison, the overall IMR for the State of Wisconsin over the same period is only 5.7; and

WHEREAS, even more shocking is the racial disparity in the IMR in the City where the IMR for non-Hispanic Blacks is 14.9, over three times more than non-Hispanic Whites (4.9) and Hispanics (4.4); and

WHEREAS, since 2000, the IMR has declined for all ethnic groups in the City, but the disparity between black and white infant deaths persists; and

WHEREAS, this disparity is also seen throughout the nation, with the United States Department of Health and Human Services-Office on Minority Health reporting an IMR of 10.9 for Non-Hispanic Blacks, which is more than double that of Non-Hispanic Whites (4.9); and

WHEREAS, the leading causes of infant death include complications of prematurity (55.6 percent), congenital anomalies (20.8 percent), and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) (15.9 percent); and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has stated that infant mortality reduction is its highest priority in Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, MHD's programs include clinic services, education, Cribs for Kids, home visitation, teen pregnancy prevention, men's health programs, and more; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the City has its "Strong Baby" campaign and "Best Babies Zone" initiative to reduce infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office participates in the prevention of infant death by conducting thorough investigations, sharing data, participating in FIMR and infant death review committees at the local and state levels, maintaining high professional standards, enhancing public health through education, and protecting deceased individuals and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, numerous community partners throughout Milwaukee County (the County) are also working to reduce infant mortality including groups such as: United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, The Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, Inc., Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, Columbia-St. Mary's Hospital, Aurora Sinai Midwifery and Wellness Center, Froedtert Hospital and the Medical College of Wisconsin, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center Milwaukee Clinic, and many others; and

WHEREAS, the FIMR includes the following actions for improving birth outcomes:

- Ensuring the spacing of pregnancies (at least 18 months)
- Preventative and quality care for health conditions including diabetes, hypertension, infections (Urinary Tract Infections and Sexually Transmitted Diseases), mental health, smoking and marijuana use, and weight management
- Improving overall social and economic health and well-being
- Connecting patients with resources and improving patient engagement
- Assuring and increasing patient centered prenatal and infant case management
- Promoting and teaching reproductive life planning
- Promoting healthy relationships to eliminate coercion, rape, and sex trafficking

; and

WHEREAS, the FIMR also notes that sleep-related deaths are the third leading cause of infant death in Milwaukee and emphasizes the importance of a safe sleep environment in preventing infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, infant mortality is a major health concern for the County and it is important to bring awareness to the issue, as well as recognize the ongoing efforts to reduce infant mortality and eliminate the IMR racial disparity; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of January 24, 2018, recommended adoption of File No. 17-796 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

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86 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
87 (County Board) seeks to raise awareness of the issue of infant mortality in Milwaukee
88 County (the County); and
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90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board recognizes the ongoing efforts
91 of the City of Milwaukee to address this health crisis through projects such as the
92 “Strong Baby” campaign and the “Best Babies Zone” initiative; and
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94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board also recognizes all the
95 community partners working in the field to improve birth outcomes in the County.
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