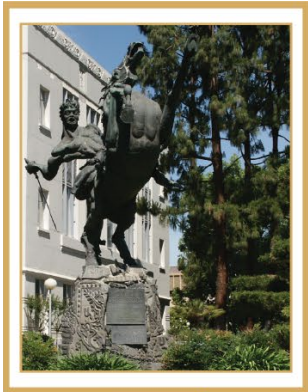

THE COUNTY OF FRESNO

Board of Supervisors

PROCLAMATION



Whereas~ Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW) was founded in 2018 by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance as a national week of awareness, activism, and community building intended to deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the U.S. as well as to amplify community driven policy, research, and care solutions. It also seeks to center the voices of Black Mamas, women, families, and stakeholders and to provide a national platform for Black-led entities and efforts on maternal health, birth and reproductive justice as well as to enhance community organization on Black maternal health; and

Whereas~ racial and ethnic disparities continue to exist where 13.4% of white women and 43.1% of Black women live in concentrated poverty and unhealthy neighborhood conditions in California. Historically, some policies and practices within education, housing, healthcare, economies, and environments have deepened disparities; and

Whereas~ from 2014-2016, the pregnancy-related mortality ratio for Black women was 56.2 deaths per 100,000 live births, which is four to six times greater than the mortality ratios for White (9.4), Hispanic (11.0), and Asian/Pacific Islander women (13.3). Decreasing maternal racial disparities requires collaboration among local, state, and federal governments, healthcare systems, providers, and social service organizations, as well as equitable investments in the services, programs, and environmental conditions that impact Black, Indigenous, and mothers of color; and

Whereas~ doulas are non-medical providers within the healthcare system. Doulas have a specialized role and provide continuous support for pregnant persons throughout their pregnancy, through birth, and after birth. The use of doulas has been demonstrated to reduce the risk of preventable infant and maternal mortality for women of color; and

Whereas~ the majority of maternal deaths are preventable. No woman or baby should experience a preventable preterm birth, and no woman or baby should die from a preventable cause.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaim April 11-17th “Black Maternal Health Week” in Fresno County and encourage all citizens to be aware of the benefits of healthy mothers and babies and the ways in which we can work together to achieve healthy starts for all.

**ADOPTED BY THE FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL 2025**

Chairman Buddy Mendes, District 4 Supervisor

Luis Chavez, District 3 Supervisor

Vice-Chairman Garry Bredefeld, District 2 Supervisor

Nathan Magsig, District 5 Supervisor

Brian Pacheco, District 1 Supervisor