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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: April 6, 2026

RE: **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK**

City Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway has requested that the Legislative Policy Division produce a resolution recognizing April 11th through April 17th as Black Maternal Health Week. The requested resolution is attached.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to use if we can be of further assistance.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

- WHEREAS** Black Maternal Health Week, held annually from April 11 through April 17 and founded and led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, is a week-long campaign dedicated to building awareness, advancing activism, and fostering community to amplify the voices, perspectives, and lived experiences of Black mothers and birthing people;¹ and
- WHEREAS** The purpose of Black Maternal Health Week is to deepen the national conversation on Black maternal health and to expand the understanding of the root causes of maternal health inequities—recognizing maternal mortality as a global crisis affecting Black women not only in the United States, but throughout the world;² and
- WHEREAS** The 2026 Black Maternal Health Week theme, “Rooted in Justice & Joy,” marks the tenth anniversary of Black Maternal Health Week and honors the strength of a collective movement committed to nurturing thriving families and shaping a liberated future grounded in justice, healing, and joy.³ The theme reflects the power, resilience, and leadership of Black-led perinatal, maternal, and reproductive health organizations that have cultivated healing, advocacy, and transformative change across communities;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** Detroit is home to several maternal health organizations, including Birth Detroit, Black Mothers’ Breastfeeding Association, and Mothering Justice, all of which are Black-led, and whose work and advocacy has strengthened maternal and infant health in our city, expanded culturally grounded support for Black mothers and families, and advanced reproductive justice through community-based care, education, and systems change;⁵ and
- WHEREAS** Black maternal and infant health outcomes in Detroit reflect both an urgent need and meaningful opportunity for improvement, as City of Detroit data reveals persistent racial disparities in birth outcomes and access to early prenatal care, underscoring the importance of continued investment in equitable, timely, and culturally responsive maternal health services for Black mothers, birthing people, and families;⁶ and
- WHEREAS** The Black Maternal Health Week campaign aims to deepen national dialogue, inform policy, and advance solutions to address systemic disparities in maternal care; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes April 11 through April 17, 2026, as Black Maternal Health Week in the City of Detroit, and joins in honoring the voices, lived experiences, leadership, and advocacy of Black mothers and birthing people, while reaffirming its commitment to advancing equity, justice, and improved maternal health outcomes for Black families, **NOW BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Clerk transmit a copy of this resolution to the Mayor of the City of Detroit, the Detroit Health Department, Birth Detroit, Black Mothers’ Breastfeeding Association, Mothering Justice, and the Black Mamas Matter Alliance.

¹ See Black Mamas Matter Alliance, *Black Maternal Health Week 2026*, <https://blkmaternalhealthweek.com/> (last visited Apr. 6, 2026); Black Mamas Matter Alliance, *Black Maternal Health Week Resolution Guide* (2026).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ See Birth Detroit, *Home*, <https://www.birthdetroit.com/> (last visited Apr. 6, 2026); Black Mothers’ Breastfeeding Association (BMBFA), *Black Mothers’ Breastfeeding Association (BMBFA)*, Detroit Urb. Rsch. Ctr., <https://www.detroiturc.org/black-mothers-breastfeeding-association-bmbfa> (last visited Apr. 6, 2026); Mothering Justice, *About*, <https://www.motheringjustice.org/about> (last visited Apr. 6, 2026).

⁶ Detroit Health Dep’t, *Strategic Issue Data Brief* (2025), <https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2025-07/Strategic%20Issue%20Data%20Brief.pdf>.