

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2024 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-028-2024

Proposed by Council Members Oriadha, Ivey and Blegay

Introduced by Council Members Oriadha, Ivey, Watson, Olson, Hawkins, Dernoga,
Burroughs and Franklin

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction April 9, 2024

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Black Maternal Health Week

3 For the purpose of recognizing April 11 -17th as the annual Black Maternal Health Week; to
4 bring county wide attention to maternal health crisis in the United States and the importance of
5 reducing maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing persons.

6 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women in
7 the United States are 2.6 times more likely than White women to die from pregnancy-related
8 causes; and

9 WHEREAS, Black women in the United States suffer from life-threatening pregnancy
10 complications, known as maternal morbidities, twice as often as White women; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among affluent
12 countries, in part because of the disproportionate mortality rate of Black women; and

13 WHEREAS, the rate of preterm birth among Black women is nearly 50 percent higher than
14 the preterm birth rate among White or Hispanic women; and

15 WHEREAS, the high rates of maternal mortality among Black women span across income
16 levels; education levels; and socioeconomic status; and

17 WHEREAS, an investment must be made in maternity care policies that support and
18 promote affordable, comprehensive, and holistic maternal health care that is free from gender
19 and racial discrimination.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
21 County, Maryland, that week of April 11-17th shall be recognized annually as the Black Maternal

1 Health Week.

2 BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED THAT Black Maternal Health Week is an opportunity to
3 deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the United States; amplify
4 community-driven policy, research, and care solutions; center the voices of Black mothers,
5 women, families, and stakeholders; provide a national platform for Black-led entities and efforts
6 on maternal health, birth, and reproductive justice; and enhance community organizing on Black
7 maternal health.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in order to improve maternal health outcomes, the
9 County Council must fully support and encourage policies grounded in the human rights,
10 reproductive justice, and birth justice frameworks that address Black maternal health inequity.

Adopted this 9th day of April, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Jolene Ivey
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council