

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2025 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-099-2025

Proposed by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Black Maternal Health Accountability and Patient Bill of Rights

3 For the purpose of participating in and encouraging the creation of an operational framework to
 4 address healthcare disparities, particularly in the area of black maternal health in Prince George's
 5 County.

6 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has taken important steps to address racial disparities in
 7 maternal health, including expanding Medicaid coverage for doulas, requiring implicit bias
 8 training for perinatal providers, and strengthening maternal mental health screening; and

9 WHEREAS, despite these efforts, Black women in Maryland-and particularly in Prince
 10 George's County-continue to experience disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality,
 11 morbidity, and mistreatment in healthcare settings; and

12 WHEREAS, the County Council, sitting as the Board of Health, seek to complement and
 13 build upon state programs by advancing local accountability, patient-centered rights, and
 14 community-based oversight; and

15 WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Charter provides that the Council may appoint, for
 16 designated periods, one or more temporary advisory boards of citizens of the County who shall
 17 assist in the coordination of County policies and programs.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
 19 County, Maryland, that the County shall adopt the "Black Maternal Bill of Rights Checklist"
 20 ("the Checklist").

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- 22 1) The Checklist shall be read aloud at labor and delivery intake and signed by the individual

1 giving birth, their spouse, or the individual who is the designated medical power of attorney; and

2 2) The Checklist goal is to ensure every birthing person understands their rights to respectful,
3 safe, and bias-free care; and

4 3) The Checklist shall align with the laws of the State of Maryland with respect to informed
5 consent and cultural competence; and

6 4) The Checklist shall be translated into the top five County languages in terms of population
7 size.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Health Department shall promote the “Your Voice
9 Matters” Maternal Experience Survey (“the Survey”) which shall:

10 1) Be administered prenatally (36-38 weeks) and postpartum (before discharge); and

11 2) Focus on patient experience, respectful care, and equity concerns; and

12 3) Not duplicate state Maternal Mortality Review Panel (MMRP) but serves as supplemental
13 feedback tool; and

14 4) Consist of aggregated results reported to the County Health Department.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Country Council shall establish the Prince
16 George’s County Black Maternal Health Equity Task Force which shall:

17 1) Have members that consist of Black mothers, doulas, obstetricians, hospital leaders, and
18 public health officials; and

19 2) Review survey data, training compliance, and hospital trends; and

20 3) Within one year from the time of its convening, report its recommendations to the County
21 Council, County Executive and the Maryland Department of Health.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Health Officer shall partner with hospitals and
23 providers to:

24 1) Promote Medicaid-funded doula services; and

25 2) Expand trauma-informed implicit bias training; and

26 3) Strengthen maternal mental health follow-up.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council hereby establishes a Black
28 Maternal Health Fund Advisory Group (“the Advisory Group”) to provide recommendations on
29 the equitable allocation and disbursement of any funds appropriated, donated, or granted to the
30 County for the purpose of improving Black maternal health outcomes.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Advisory Group shall be composed of the

1 following five members:

- 2 1) One (1) representative of the Prince George's County Council, who shall serve as Chair,
- 3 appointed by the Chair of the Council; and
- 4 2) One (1) representative of the Prince George's County Health Department, appointed by the
- 5 County Health Officer; and
- 6 3) Two (2) representatives from nonprofit organizations based in Prince George's County with
- 7 demonstrated experience in addressing Black maternal health, appointed by the County Council
- 8 in consultation with the Health Department; and
- 9 4) One (1) representative from a licensed hospital or health system operating within Prince
- 10 George's County, appointed by the Health Department.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Advisory Group shall meet as needed when funds
 12 are available, at the call of the Chair, to evaluate proposals, assess community needs, and make
 13 recommendations on fund allocation.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that within thirty (30) days of convening, the Advisory
 15 Group shall submit a written Black Maternal Health Fund Allocation Report to the County
 16 Health Department, which shall outline:

- 17 1) The recommended use of available funds; and
- 18 2) The rationale for each proposed expenditure; and
- 19 3) The alignment with equity goals and documented community needs.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no funds from the Black Maternal Health Fund shall be
 21 disbursed by the County Health Department without the prior submission of an official
 22 Allocation Report from the Advisory Group.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that disbursement shall be limited to those uses specified in
 24 the report unless amended or updated through a subsequent official submission.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all expenditures shall comply with applicable County
 26 procurement, auditing, and reporting standards.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Health Department shall publish a
 28 summary of each Allocation Report and final disbursement outcomes on its public website
 29 within 60 days of disbursement.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an annual summary of fund uses, outcomes, and
 31 community impact shall be presented to the County Council during its public health oversight

1 session.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The County Council strongly encourages the Governor
3 of Maryland and Maryland General Assembly to:

- 4 1) Create a state-level Office or Director of Black Maternal Health Equity; and
5 2) Mandate universal maternal experience surveys at all birthing hospitals; and
6 3) Allocate sustained funding for community-based doula networks; and
7 4) Ensure full enforcement and transparency around perinatal bias training and maternal
8 mental health laws.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Health Officer shall coordinate
10 implementation of the requirements of this resolution and provide an update within 90 days.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Edward P. Burroughs III
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

LDR-126-cr-Black Maternal Health Accountability and Patient Bill of Rights.
Resolution.v2.2025