

1 [Black Maternal Health Week - April 11 through April 17, 2026]

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3 **Resolution declaring Black Maternal Health Week from April 11 through April 17, 2026,**
4 **in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Black women in San Francisco deserve joyful, healthy pregnancies and
7 birth outcomes just like every other racial demographic; and

8 WHEREAS, Black maternal health disparities in San Francisco are a multidimensional
9 challenge that require a community-centered approach; and

10 WHEREAS, Black women are the only racial group for whom preterm birth has
11 continued to worsen in San Francisco; and

12 WHEREAS, Rates of very premature births among Black babies born at 32 weeks or
13 earlier increased by 71% between 2016 and 2024, rising from 2.1% to 3.6% of births,
14 according to the San Francisco Department of Public Health; and

15 WHEREAS, Black babies make up approximately one out of every five infant deaths in
16 San Francisco, despite Black births comprising only 4% of live births in the City; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco has the worst birth disparities by race of any city in
18 California; and

19 WHEREAS, Black maternal health disparities in San Francisco are rooted in systemic
20 racism; and

21 WHEREAS, The death of a mother during or within the following year of a pregnancy
22 from a pregnancy-related complication is called pregnancy-related mortality; and

23 WHEREAS, The number of pregnancy-related deaths for every 100,000 live births, or
24 the pregnancy-related mortality ratio, is often used as an indicator to measure the health and
25 well-being of a nation and a municipality; and

1 WHEREAS, Nationally, the maternal mortality rate has declined for every racial and
2 ethnic group except Black women, who continue to face a mortality rate more than three times
3 that of white women; and

4 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, there is one pregnancy-related death each year; and

5 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, the top three causes of maternal death are embolism,
6 infection, and chronic disease, including cancers and hypertension, which in turn are
7 associated with economic, cultural, environmental, and social conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, 45% of Black and African American birthing mothers live below the federal
9 poverty line in San Francisco; and

10 WHEREAS, Inordinate and unacceptable disparities exist in the rate of pregnancy-
11 related mortality by race and ethnicity; and

12 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, Black and African American birthing mothers experience
13 a disproportionate share of pregnancy-related deaths; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the past 10 years, Black and African American mothers had about
15 4% of births but accounted for 50% of pregnancy-related deaths; and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco has underspent its budget to address maternal health
17 inequities by at least \$8 million since 2021, including returning the highest share of Prenatal
18 Equity Initiative funds to the State to date; and

19 WHEREAS, The current federal administration has halted community-based maternal
20 health grants, eliminated the White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis,
21 and reduced staffing at the CDC's Division of Reproductive Health, placing greater
22 responsibility on cities and counties to act; and

23 WHEREAS, The Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health section of the Department of
24 Public Health has convened a group of multi-sector stakeholders to participate in the Prenatal
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1 Equity Initiative to implement strategies to decrease disparities in maternal mortality, preterm
2 birth, and other perinatal health issues; and

3 WHEREAS, The City launched the Strong Starts initiative in February 2026 to invest in
4 doula support, early clinical care access, food security, behavioral health, and wraparound
5 services, including a partnership with City College of San Francisco; and

6 WHEREAS, Care coordination, education, and access to social and health care
7 services can improve perinatal health in San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That addressing Black maternal health disparities is a solvable problem in
9 San Francisco; and

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco must fully resource and sustain its
11 investments in Black maternal health, including through the Strong Starts initiative and
12 community-based care models; and

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby declares April 11
14 through April 17, 2026, as Black Maternal Health Week to affirm the City's commitment to
15 investing in and protecting the lives of all birthing people in San Francisco.

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