FILE NO. 251134 RESOLUTION NO.

[World Prematurity Awareness Day - November 17, 2025]

Resolution declaring November 17, 2025, as World Prematurity Awareness Day in the City and County of San Francisco; and urging interagency efforts to close gaps in birth disparities.

WHEREAS, “World Prematurity Day” represents an international health campaign that urges for an increase in investments to prevent preterm births and support birth givers and babies with accessible, lifesaving health care; and

WHEREAS, The health campaign raises awareness about childbirth occurring before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy and the preventable complications that make it a leading cause of death among children under five; and

WHEREAS, Babies born prematurely are more susceptible to difficulty breathing, infections, hypothermia, long-term disabilities, and chronic illnesses; in addition, very preterm babies require 10 times more services which amount to an additional $220,000 in hospital costs; and

WHEREAS, In California, Black, Pacific Islander, Native American, and Latiné pregnant people experience disproportionately higher rates of preterm births than their White counterparts; and

WHEREAS, In San Francisco, 1 in every 12 babies is born preterm and San Francisco has the worst birth disparities in California, with Black pregnant people delivering preterm 2.3 times more than White pregnant people; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco spent less than 46% of its allocated budget for the Black Infant Health Initiative from 2021-2024; and

WHEREAS, Researchers and doctors emphasized that improved screening methods are needed to identify individuals at risk of preterm birth and early interventions to prevent the onset of premature labor; and

WHEREAS, Immediate action and increased investments in stronger, more resilient health systems are imperative to saving lives, improving health, and promoting the rights and opportunities of women and children; and

WHEREAS, Community-based health care ensures more equitable access to pre- and post-natal care, childhood vaccinations, assisted births, nutrition, and family planning to combat the underfunding of national health care systems and a lack of trained maternal health care workers; and

WHEREAS, No birth giver should face preventable life-threatening risks during childbirth when medical professionals possess the knowledge and resources to address complications that can result in fatalities for the parent or child; and

WHEREAS, California passed the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act to reduce implicit bias and to improve care for pregnant people, including those with preterm births; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco declare November 17, 2025, as "World Prematurity Awareness Day" and urge the Department of Public Health to fully commit to addressing the inequities in birth outcomes with adequate staffing, sufficient oversight, community engagement, transparency in funding; and concrete timelines for measurable outcomes; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges interagency coordination and action between Department of Public Health, Department of Early Childhood, Human Services Agency, Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, Human Rights

Commission, and Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to prioritize and to align collectively to decrease the preterm birth rate; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the work of the Black Infant Health Initiative, birth doulas, midwives, and health care workers that devote their time to saving the lives of birth givers and their newborn babies; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages distribution of federal government financial aid during pregnancy as studies found this reduces preterm birth and low birth weight; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board ensures full transparency of spending by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and hospitals out of compliance with the 2019 Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Department of Public Health, Department of Early Childhood, Human Services Agency, Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, Human Rights Commission, and Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development.