BOARD of SUPERVISORS

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MEMORANDUM

Date: December 18, 2025

To: Daniel Tsai, Director, Department of Public Health
Ingrid Mezquita, Executive Director, Department of Early Childhood
Trent Rhorer, Executive Director, Human Services Agency
Sherrice Dorsey-Smith, Acting Director, Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families
Mawuli Tugbenyoh, Acting Executive Director, Human Rights Commission
Daniel Adams, Director, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development

From: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, Board of Supervisors

Subject: World Prematurity Awareness Day - November 17, 2025 (File No. 251134)

On November 18, 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 559-25, sponsored by Supervisor Myrna Melgar (File No. 251134, World Prematurity Day - November 17, 2025), which was enacted on November 28, 2025.

Please find the attached courtesy copy of the Resolution for your office's information and awareness.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184.

c: Members of the Board of Supervisors; Supervisors Myrna Melgar, Shamann Walton, Danny Sauter, Jackie Fielder, Stephen Sherrill, Chyanne Chen
Adam Thongsavat, Mayor's Office
Aly Bonde, Mayor's Office
Dr. Naveena Bobba, Department of Public Health
Sneha Patil, Department of Public Health
Derik Aoki, Department of Early Childhood
Elizabeth LaBarre, Human Services Agency
Susie Smith, Human Services Agency
Jasmine Dawson, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
Maria Benjamin, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
Sheila Nickolopoulos, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
Kyra Geithman, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
Julia Sabory, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development

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FILE NO. 251134 RESOLUTION NO. 559-25

[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.

City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 251134 **Date Passed:** November 18, 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.

November 18, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill and Walton

File No. 251134

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 11/18/2025 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

11/28/2025

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

11/28/2025

Date