

1 [Infant Mortality Awareness Month - September]

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3 **Resolution declaring September “Infant Mortality Awareness Month” in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, The death of a baby before reaching his or her first birthday is called Infant
7 Mortality and the loss of a baby takes a serious toll on families; and

8 WHEREAS, The Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births) is often used
9 as an indicator to measure the health and well-being of a nation and a municipality, because
10 factors affecting the health of entire populations can also affect infant mortality; and

11 WHEREAS, Each week in the City and County of San Francisco, approximately thirty
12 infants die, or the equivalent of one to two kindergarten classes; and

13 WHEREAS, Nationally, 58 percent of infant deaths are caused by Sudden Infant Death
14 Syndrome, birth defects, preterm births, maternal complications during pregnancy and injury,
15 which in turn are associated with economic, cultural, environmental and social conditions; and

16 WHEREAS, Inordinate and unacceptable disparities exist in Infant Mortality Rates
17 throughout age, race, and ethnicity; and

18 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, the Infant Mortality Rate among African-Americans is
19 7.2 per one thousand live births; Hispanics is 4.3; Asians is 2.0; and Caucasians is 2.2; and

20 WHEREAS, Over the past decade, the Infant Mortality Rate for African Americans has
21 been three to five times that of Whites; and the rate for Latinos has been two times that of
22 Whites; 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 Institute
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1 for Equity in Birth Outcomes to implement strategies to decrease Black-White disparities in
2 Infant Mortality; and

3 WHEREAS, Family planning and prenatal care improve infant health outcomes and are
4 available in San Francisco; and

5 WHEREAS, Grief support and counseling may offer valuable support to women and
6 families impacted by Infant Mortality; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares September “Infant Mortality
8 Awareness Month” to affirm the City’s commitment to investing in, and protecting the lives of
9 all infants.

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