



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAMATION
Recognizing April 11 – 17, 2025 as
Black Maternal Health Week**

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Commissioners, recognizes the importance of Black Maternal Health; and

WHEREAS, Black women nationwide, regardless of income or education level, are three to four times more likely to die from *preventable* pregnancy-related complications, and Black infants are two to three times more likely to die during their first year of life; and

WHEREAS, the maternal mortality rate in North Carolina doubled between 2019 and 2021, exacerbated by the global pandemic, while NC maintains the 11th highest maternal mortality rate in the country; and

WHEREAS, 39% of Black women in North Carolina receive late or no prenatal care, compared to only 24% of white women, meaning they are less likely to be diagnosed and treated for pregnancy-related complications such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and fetal conditions; and

WHEREAS, as many as 50% of Black women experiencing maternal mental health disorder symptoms fail to receive adequate help; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 babies in North Carolina are birthed to Black women, so this issue is consequential for our entire community; and

WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week was founded by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance to increase awareness around the state of Black Maternal Health and promote activism and investment in solutions; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that the services of diverse birth workers, health advocates, community organizations, and healthcare providers are a crucial component of eliminating disparities, enhancing Black maternal safety and improving birth and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and uplift community-based responses to addressing this crisis and we promote initiatives that reduce Black maternal morbidity and mortality such as doula services, midwifery services, peer support, mutual aid and mental wellness support; and

WHEREAS, Black women deserve to have beautiful pregnancy and birth experiences with access to care of their choice through being empowered and resourced to make informed decisions based on their needs; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the urgency in addressing the Black maternal health crisis in Wake County and across North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 11-17, 2025, as **BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK**, and urges the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to support this important issue.

ADOPTED this the 7th day of April 2025.

Susan P. Evans, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners