

*The Board of Supervisors of  
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

**Resolution No. 2021/371**

**Black maternal and infant health;**

WHEREAS, in the United States Black mothers are nearly four times more likely to die from childbirth complications than White mothers; they are also more likely to have babies with low birth-weights than infants of all other racial and ethnic groups, and these health disparities persist regardless of education and income; and

WHEREAS, research has identified that racial discrimination is the root cause of these disparities. Maternal stress caused by experiencing racism, discriminatory practices in healthcare settings, and the effects of cumulative socioeconomic disadvantage and other unjust social barriers threaten the lives of Black mothers and babies; and

WHEREAS, ending unacceptable disparities in Black maternal and infant health requires both centering the voices and lived experience of Black birthing people, families, and stakeholders in the conversation and engaging broader health system partners and allies to listen and act; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa and four other Bay Area counties launched the Deliver Birth Justice campaign to raise awareness about how systemic racism and bias drive persistent inequity and health disparities for Black birthing people and babies and build public will for systems change and interventions at the local, regional and statewide levels; and

WHEREAS, disparities persist in Black maternal and infant health among Contra Costa residents with Black mothers giving birth to low birth weight infants more than two times as often as White mothers from 2018 - 2020. In that same period, nearly 10% (9.5%) of Black mothers had preterm births compared to 5.8% of White mothers. Black babies are almost twice as likely to die within the first year of life as White babies (6.3/1,000 v. 3.2/1,000 from 2016 -2020) and Black mothers experienced health-impacting, life-threatening events during childbirth at more than double the rate of White mothers from 2016-2018, and

WHEREAS, Black birthing patients at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center experience higher rates of complications in many categories CCRMC tracks: including caesarian sections, pre-term births, low birth weights, increased rates of pre-eclampsia, and fewer exclusively breastfed babies; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa Regional Medical Center will continue to fight the disparities in adverse birth outcomes among Black birthing patients through the implementation of cutting-edge technologies, like riskLD that creates an early warning system for bad birth outcomes, facilitating care team response to urgent patient alerts based on data, eliminating the impact of racial biases; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County has declared racism a public health crisis and has committed to working to end the racism that results in disproportionately higher rates of chronic disease, shorter life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality, and health inequities for Black/African Americans and other racial groups; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) will continue to work in partnership with community-based organizations to eliminate disparities in Black maternal and infant health and to deliver programs and supports that are grounded in evidence, community, and culture for African and African Ancestry residents. These include the

community-based doula program, CoCo doulas, Partners in Pregnancy Fatherhood Program, Black Infant Health Program, and others that are grounded in evidence, community, and culture for African and African Ancestry residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Contra Costa in recognition of the above does hereby proclaim November 3, 2021, as Black Family Health Day

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DIANE BURGIS**

Chair, District III Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JOHN GIOIA**

District I Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CANDACE ANDERSEN**

District II Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KAREN MITCHOFF**

District IV Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
**FEDERAL D. GLOVER**

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: November 2, 2021

Monica Nino, County Administrator

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy