

1 Vincent C. Gray

2 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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4 Charles Allen

5 Councilmember Charles Allen

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7 Trayon White

8 Councilmember Trayon White

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10 Janeese Lewis George

11 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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13 Robert C. White, Jr.

14 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

15 Christina Henderson

16 Councilmember Christina Henderson

17 Zachary Parker

18 Councilmember Zachary Parker

19 Brianne K. Nadeau

20 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

21 Matthew Frumin

22 Councilmember Matthew Frumin

23 Brooke Pinto

24 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

25
26 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

27
28 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

29
30 To recognize the need to continue to raise awareness around Black maternal health disparities,
31 amplify community-driven policy and care solutions, and honor birth workers, maternal
32 care providers, and Black maternal health advocacy groups for their selfless work; and
33 declare April 11th to April 17th as Black Maternal Health Week in the District of
34 Columbia.

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36 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women
37 in the United States are 2.6 times more likely than White women to die from pregnancy-related
38 causes;

39
40 WHEREAS, the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among affluent
41 countries, in part because of the disproportionate mortality rate of Black women;

42
43 WHEREAS, the high rates of maternal mortality among Black women span across

44 income levels, education levels, and socioeconomic status;

45

46 WHEREAS, new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has indicated
47 that since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the maternal mortality rate for Black women has
48 increased by 26 percent;

49

50 WHEREAS, for years, the District of Columbia has reported a maternal mortality rate
51 well beyond the national average;

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53 WHEREAS, according to the District’s Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC),
54 despite making up only about half of all births between 2014 and 2018, Black women made up
55 90 percent of birth-related deaths;

56

57 WHEREAS, according to the MMRC, residents in Wards 7 and 8 comprised 70% of
58 pregnancy associated deaths;

59

60 WHEREAS, there is currently no hospital east of North Capitol Street in the District that
61 has a labor and delivery department;

62

63 WHEREAS, according to DC Health, Black mothers in the District have higher levels of
64 preterm births than White mothers, and the highest levels of preterm births occur among
65 residents who live in Wards 7 and 8;

66

67 WHEREAS, according to DC Health, of Black women who gave birth between 2019 and
68 2020, 10 percent did not initiate prenatal care until their third trimester or had none at all, and 29
69 percent did not initiate prenatal care until their second trimester;

70

71 WHEREAS, Black mothers experience a higher prevalence of perinatal mental health
72 issues, including postpartum depression and anxiety;

73

74 WHEREAS, the District has launched the Perinatal Mental Health Task Force to study
75 and make recommendations on improvements to perinatal mental health programs and
76 treatments and methods to close gaps in care provision and coordination;

77

78 WHEREAS, a wide distribution of birth options, providers, and other resources for
79 reproductive health care and perinatal services is critical to closing the racial gap in maternal
80 health outcomes;

81

82 WHEREAS, the official theme for Black Maternal Health Week 2023 is Our Bodies
83 Belong to Us: Restoring Black Autonomy and Joy!

84

85 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
86 resolution may be cited as the “Black Maternal Health Week Recognition Resolution of 2023”.

87

88 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the need to continue to raise
89 awareness around Black maternal health disparities, amplify community-driven policy and care
90 solutions, and honor birth workers, maternal care providers, and Black maternal health advocacy
91 groups for their selfless work, and declares April 11th to April 17th as Black Maternal Health
92 Week in the District of Columbia.

93

94 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
95 the District of Columbia Register.